

Awards for Programs That Enhance Student Learning

Program Awards recognise learning and teaching support programs and services that make an outstanding contribution to the quality of student learning and the quality of the student experience at Curtin University. The programs and services that receive Program Awards must have demonstrated their effectiveness through rigorous evaluation and will set benchmarks for similar activities in other Faculties, schools, units and higher education institutions.

Categories

There are seven Program Award categories, as follows:

- 1. Widening participation**, encompassing approaches to learning and teaching which enhance student access, widen participation, and support progression.
- 2. Educational partnerships and collaborations with other organisations**, encompassing partnerships between universities, and universities and other organisations – such as schools, professional bodies businesses and industries – in collaborative approaches to learning and teaching.
- 3. The first-year experience**, encompassing the academic and social transition to higher education, learning and teaching within large student groups, and the quality of the first-year student experience.
- 4. Flexible learning and teaching**, encompassing approaches to learning and teaching that afford flexibility in time, place and/or mode of learning.
- 5. Innovation in curricula, learning and teaching**, encompassing innovations that encourage novel approaches to learning and teaching, innovations that encourage or support multidisciplinary, research-based learning and teaching approaches, innovations that utilise the potential of new and/or emerging technologies.
- 6. Postgraduate education**, encompassing programs that focus on postgraduate students, postgraduate coursework learning and teaching, postgraduate research supervision and research higher degree candidature, and postgraduate learning support.
- 7. Services supporting student learning**, encompassing services directly related to student learning such as services for specific groups of students, information access, course advising, language and learning support, counselling and disability support.

It is anticipated that Program Awards will be distributed across the seven categories, although the pattern of distribution will ultimately be determined by the quality of nominations (ie there is no set number of awards for each category).

Eligibility for Nomination

- Nomination is open to all programs and services that enhance student learning. It is intended that eligible programs are broader than one or two subjects or a limited service that involves only a few students. For example, programs may involve a service or program provided at the University, faculty or school level, a program of study across a year or number of years, or a service or program directed at particular groups of students.
- Previous recipient programs are ineligible for renomination.
- Teams may be of any size. If a team is larger than five members, a team name should be given.

Selection Criteria

All nominations for Program Awards will be assessed on the evidence they provide in relation to the following four criteria, which will be given equal consideration by the Curtin EIT Awards Committee:

1. Distinctiveness, coherence and clarity of purpose

Extent to which the program has clear objectives and systematic approaches to coordination, implementation and evaluation

2. Influence on student learning and student engagement

Extent to which the program targets identified needs and directly or indirectly enhances student learning, student engagement and/or the overall student experience of higher education

3. Breadth of impact

Extent to which the program has led to widespread benefits for students, staff, the University, and/or other institutions, consistent with the purpose of the program

4. Concern for equity and diversity

Extent to which the program promotes and supports equity and inclusiveness by improving access, participation and outcomes for diverse student groups

In assessing nominations against the four selection criteria, the assessors and the Committee will take into account:

1. evidence of the effectiveness of the program in formal and informal evaluation;
2. the degree of creativity, imagination or innovation;
3. evidence of the sustained effectiveness of the program.; and
4. the extent to which the program reflects the Curtin Triple i curriculum.

Application Process

Each nominee must submit the following documents:

1. [Nomination form](#) (provided)
2. Written statement, including a synopsis and discussion addressing each of the selection criteria (limited to ten A4 pages)
3. Curriculum Vitae (limited to three A4 pages)
4. Two references (limited to one A4 page each)

1. [Nomination form](#) (provided)

The completed nomination form must be signed by the nominee's Head of School.

2. Written statement

The core element of a nomination for a Program Award is a written statement describing the program, specifically addressing each of the four selection criteria. The written statement should be presented, in order, under the following headings:

1. Synopsis (150 -200 words, in third person)
2. Selection criteria:
 - a) Distinctiveness, coherence and clarity of purpose
 - b) Influence on student learning
 - c) Breadth of impact
 - d) Concern for equity and diversity

The synopsis must cover a description of the program and its teaching areas, the programs contribution to student learning and engagement, and the program's impact on students. The synopsis must be written in the third person and is a requirement of the nomination. The word limit is strictly 150-200 words. Should the nomination be successful, the synopsis will be used in communications regarding the recipient's success, for instance in the presentation ceremony program and on the Curtin website.

The remainder of the written statement should be devoted to addressing the category of nomination and each of the four criteria in turn. Evidence in support of the claims against these criteria must be provided. The views of students, collaborators and/or colleagues, as appropriate, will be a key element in the assessment of nominations.

The written statement is limited to **10 A4 pages** (minimum 11 point font, Arial or Times New Roman recommended) in total and should include all information that might be referred to in the submission. All pages in excess of 10 will be removed.

3. Curriculum vitae

The curriculum vitae should outline the nominee's educational qualifications, employment history, teaching positions held and teaching experience. The curriculum vitae are limited to three A4 pages for nominations from individuals. Teams may allow for one additional page per team member i.e., a team of three may have five pages (three + two). Pages in excess of this limit will be removed.

4. References

Two references, of no more than one A4 page each, must be provided by people who are able to comment on the program against the selection criteria. One of the referees must be the head of the nominee's faculty, department or school. If the nomination is from a team, the references should apply to the team. The references must be signed by the referee. Electronic signatures on references supplied by the referee to the nominee or University by email are acceptable. Only the first page of a reference that exceeds the one page limit will be provided to the Curtin EIT Awards committee.

Presentation Requirements and Submission

There is no advantage in elaborate presentation of nominations. The nomination form (provided) is adequate as a cover page. Do not staple the application.

Paper should be A4 plain white.

Margins should be at least 2 cm with clear paragraph definition.

The minimum acceptable font size is 11 point. A font such as Times New Roman or Arial is strongly recommended.

No supplementary materials should be included. Photos and/or pictures should fit within the 10-page statement limit. All extra material will be removed before the application is forwarded to the EIT Awards Committee.

ONE original complete application in hard copy (signed nomination form, 10-page statement, curriculum vitae and two references) should reach the EIT Awards Officer, Office of Assessment Teaching and Learning, Building 105 Room 150, Bentley Campus by 5.00 pm on **Monday 22 August 2011**.

You should also submit the **complete application** (signed nomination form, statement, curriculum vitae and references) **electronically** as a word document or pdf to a.goody@curtin.edu.au by 5.00 pm Monday 22 August 2011.