**Higher Education Futures institute (HEFi) Teaching and Learning Awards 2020-21 - Guidelines**

# Aims and Outline

The Higher Education Futures institute (HEFi) Awards celebrate teaching excellence in the context of our contemporary, research-intensive university. These awards are peer-nominated, and the aim is to recognise academic and professional services colleagues who design, deliver and/or support exceptional student learning.

Award winners will be announced and celebrated during the HEFi Festival 5-9 July 2021 (date to be confirmed).

# Awards themes

The categories for the 2020/2021 Awards are:

* **The Award for Digital Learning Innovation**

Two awards will be made (one individual and one team) to staff who have demonstrated innovation in online teaching and support that has had a positive impact on student learning over the last 12 months. The judges will be looking for innovation that has had a transformative effect on teaching during the pandemic and that has the potential to be both sustainable and transferable into other contexts.

* **The Award for Inclusive Education**

Two awards (one individual and one team) will recognise a commitment to developing an inclusive learning environment, whether face-to-face or online, in which all students feel they belong, are respected, and can learn optimally. The judges will be looking for best practice in inclusive learning design and evidence of strategies for inclusive education that could be transferable into other contexts.

* **The Award for Educational Leadership**

The award recognises the full range of educational leadership that exists in the University of Birmingham and the many ways in which leadership has been demonstrated in our response to the pandemic. Two awards will be made this year, to individuals who have used their leadership skills to promote a commitment to compassionate, inclusive, innovative approaches to teaching and supporting learning. The judges will be looking for individuals who, in their own immediate context and beyond, have supported, guided and/or influenced others to adapt to new ways of working and have a positive impact on student learning.

* **The Award for Outstanding Support for Student Education**

Two awards (one individual and one team) will recognise those who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to supporting students to learn and preparing them for their futures against the backdrop of the pandemic. The judges will be looking for evidence of student-centred practice that has fostered a sense of community and has supported students to develop the knowledge and skills they will need to be successful on graduation. *Note: Nominations that relate to personal academic tutoring should be made through the Personal Academic Tutor of the Year category.*

* **The Award for Personal Academic Tutor of the Year**

Two awards will recognise the vital role that a personal academic tutor has played in supporting and developing their students in an uncertain, changing and challenging environment. The judges will be looking for individuals who have supported students and enhanced the student learning experience through personal tutoring in a bi-modal learning environment. They will have demonstrated an effective approach to academic support and enabled an environment where staff and students can work together on developing students’ academic skills, personal and employability through the use of innovative tutoring techniques.

* **The Award for HEFi Teacher of the Year**

This award celebrates the achievements of an outstanding colleague who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the provision of education at the University of Birmingham. The award winner will have a passion and drive for education that is recognised and respected by their peers and (where appropriate) students. The judges will be looking for evidence of teaching and leadership informed by engagement with research, impact on student learning, a commitment to reflection, collaboration and continuing professional development, and extensive influence that makes a notable difference to the provision of teaching and learning at the University of Birmingham.

# Nominations

* 1. Nominations can be received from any member of staff at the University.

**Please note that the winners of awards will be publicised via the HEFi website and may be asked to contribute to other promotional initiatives, so you may wish to obtain consent before nominating a colleague.** Nominations can be for individuals or small teams (which should comprise no more than 5 people who will share the award). Those nominated (or, in the case of a small team, at least one member of the nominated team) must be current members of staff.

* 1. **The nomination should be no more than 500 words**.   
     The detailed evidence upon which a nomination is made will not be required in the first stage of the process, but may be required for verification during shortlisting. It is important, therefore, to ensure the evidence is available if required.
  2. Nominations should be made by completing the [HEFi Awards nomination form](https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/hefi/about/hefi-teaching-learning-awards/hefi-teaching-learning-awards-2020-21-nomination-form.aspx) and submitting it no later than **Monday 24th May 2021.** Those shortlisted will be invited to participate in a celebratory event during the HEFi Festival between 5th and 9th July, where winners will be announced.

# The selection process

* 1. Up to five individuals (or small teams) will be shortlisted on each category. Everyone shortlisted will be invited to participate in online celebratory event during the HEFi Festival where winners in each category will be announced.
  2. Judging will be carried out by the HEFi Management Group. The judges will be looking for evidence of impact – on our students and their learning, and on education more broadly at the University of Birmingham.