

ADVICE FOR INDIVIDUALS ASPIRING TO APPLY FOR AN AWARD

Award holders were invited to provide advice to future applicants of a national award. A summary is provided.

01 // DEMONSTRATE AND ARTICULATE YOUR PASSION

Have a passion for what you do, and why you do it. Know what drives you and to be authentic in how this is articulated. Develop a teaching philosophy. Be focused on your goal. Have a clear set of goals and create a narrative that differentiates your teaching practice from others. Be a self-reflective practitioner and develop a continuous cycle of improvement drawing on student feedback, scholarly literature and the experience of other educators. Be intrinsically satisfied with your own successes. Nomination is a validation of good practice; the award is affirming your practice.

02 // CONNECT WITH A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Consult with previous award recipients and request to read successful award applications. Be open to feedback and ask for advice on your teaching practice from trusted colleagues. Find a mentor. Connect with local and international learning and teaching communities to undertake significant studies that will impact the sector. Publish and disseminate. A supportive collegial network can alleviate pressures and demands after receiving an award.

03 // COLLECT EVIDENCE OF TEACHING IMPACT

Put yourself in your students' shoes, ask what do they already know, or need to know. Articulate how the learning experiences you design influence the learning outcomes and experiences of your students. Demonstrate how you align assessment and learning activities to learning outcomes and build evidence systematically to support your claims. Use collegial feedback to reflect on your practice and collect evidence. When going for an award, you will require emotional effort and considerable resilience, the process is risky and draining. If you are not successful the first time do not give up, continue to collect evidence to strengthen your future submission.

04 // TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR DESTINY

Receiving an award will open doors. Revisit your own goals and follow your path. You do not need to become an "administrator" if you have a passion to continue to teach or research in your discipline. Whatever direction you choose, it is your career, so it is important to seek good advice and make informed decisions. Be wary of being pigeon-holed as "only a teacher" and you may need to work harder to demonstrate your discipline research aspirations.

The award has provided recipients with a level of validation, credibility, visibility and increased career satisfaction. However, the opportunities the award provides for the individual or teams varies depending on what support they have and how their home institution responds to their award at the time. The level of support and guidance offered to individuals or team award recipients can influence their capacity to pursue new opportunities. The higher profile and the quantity and nature of demands on individuals and teams can lead to an increased workload. For some, this can be overwhelming and isolating; for others it can be invigorating. For awardees with a supportive collegial network and/or well-timed institutional support, the raised profile can provide great opportunities to extend themselves, to have a "voice" and make a real difference.