AUSTRALIAN AWARDS FOR UNIVERSITY TEACHING

2023 Citation recipients (including two Early Career Awardees, Dr Pariz Lythgo-Gordon and Dr Mercedez Hinchcliff) receiving their awards at the NSW/ACT AAUT Award ceremony in Newcastle.

AAUT PD Series: Early Career Awards

Writing a successful Early Career Award nomination

Acknowledgement of Country

On behalf of those present, I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we now meet. I pay my respects to their Elders: past, present and emerging.

I also pay my respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Australia and hope that the path towards reconciliation continues to be shared and embraced.

Meet the AAUT team

Prof Ange Carbone

Awards Director

Ms Angeline Sim

Awards Manager

Ms Daniele Patterson

Awards Coordinator

Agenda

Welcome and Introduction to Early Career Award category

Advice from Assessors on how to write a successful Early Career Award nomination

Advice from two successful Early Career award recipients

Q&A and next steps

What are the Early Career Awards?

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- Nominees can apply for the ‘Early Career’ award category as part of:
  - Citations for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning
  - Awards for Teaching Excellence

- Eligibility:
  - Nominees with **no more than five years’ experience in teaching in higher education** institutions may apply for an Early Career Award. That is, from the starting date of teaching to the date of submission, i.e. August 2019 to August 2024.
  - Interruptions for unemployment, parental leave or medical conditions are not included in this calculation.
  - Early Career nominees **must provide evidence that they positively impacted on student learning, student engagement or the overall student experience for a period of no less than two years**, not including time taken for development or trial of any activity.

Citation Award Categories

Discipline categories

- Natural and Physical Science, Agriculture, Environmental and Related Sciences
- Engineering, Information Technology, Architecture and Building
- Health
- Education
- Business, Management and Commerce
- Society and Culture
- Creative Arts

Nomination categories

Early Career Award
(up to 5 years teacing experience)

Neville Bonner Award
for Indigenous Education

Sessional staff

Up to 100 AAUT Citations awarded
(max 6 nominations per institution)

Teaching Award Categories

Discipline categories

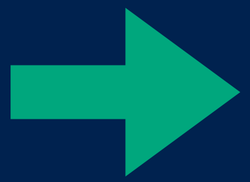
- Natural and Physical Science, Agriculture, Environmental and Related Sciences
- Engineering, Information Technology, Architecture and Building
- Health
- Education
- Business, Management and Commerce
- Society and Culture
- Creative Arts

Nomination categories

Early Career Award
(up to 5 years teaching experience)

Neville Bonner Award
for Indigenous Education

Up to nine AAUT Awards for Teaching Excellence
(max 3 nominations per institution)



One award for Australian University Teacher of the Year

Subcategories and Criteria

Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning (Citations)	Awards for Teaching Excellence (Teaching Awards)
Select <u>one</u> discipline/nomination category	**Select <u>one</u> discipline/nomination category**
Select <u>one</u> subcategory • Approaches • Development of curricula • Effective assessment • Innovation or leadership	**Address <u>all four</u> subcategories** • Approaches • Development of curricula • Effective assessment • Innovation or leadership
Address <u>all four</u> assessment criteria • Positively impacted student learning • Gained recognition • Shown creativity • Drawn on scholarly literature	**Address <u>all four</u> assessment criteria** • Positively impacted student learning • Gained recognition • Shown creativity • Drawn on scholarly literature
Documentation • Nomination form • Claims against assessment criteria (4 pages) • Two letters of reference • Digital photo • Team statement (for Team nominations only)	**Documentation** • Nomination form • Claims against assessment criteria (8 pages) • Two letters of reference • Digital photo • Team statement (for Team nominations only) • CV • Video (2-3 mins) • Supporting materials: 10 pages of supporting material in PDF format or one website (URL)

Guest speakers

A/Prof Christian Moro
Bond University

AAUT Assessor (Team Lead) for Early Career Category

2018 Award for Teaching Excellence (Early Career)

Dr Mercedez Hinchcliff
University of Wollongong

2023 Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning (Early Career)

A/Prof Nic Donnelly
RMIT University

2022 Award for Teaching Excellence (Early Career)

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A/Prof Christian Moro

Associate Dean, External Engagement
Faculty of Health Science & Medicine
Medicine and Biomedical Sciences programs
Bond University

AAUT Assessor (Team Lead) for Early Career Category

2018 Award for Teaching Excellence (Early Career)

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THE EARLY-CAREER JOURNEY…

What do assessors look for in an Early Career nomination?

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- Evidence from (at least) the last 2 years (up to ~5 years teaching experience allowed).
- It is different to the Citation for outstanding contribution to student learning
  - Far more “overall”, with more criteria and metrics to meet.
  - Student learning still sits as the priority.
- Show that the presented practices **actually assist** students
  - i.e. you run a podcast, you have a popular site on social media, etc. Does this actually help your students in this field?
- How does your excellent teaching make you stand out?
  - Every applicant is supported by their Dean & University. Most applicants will have great Teaching Evaluations. What do **you** do that is different?

Seeing the Big Picture

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- Be careful highlighting endeavours that might show you've gone a bit rogue. These may be great, and fun for students, but are they backed by any evidence?
- Drawing on scholarly literature, and/or doing your own research into the impact of any interventions greatly assists.
- Care with words like "engaged", "effective" or "enhanced learning" – this is a measurable metric and should be supported with evidence
- Consider if some of the interventions you promote are simply activities you should be doing anyway as a routine part of your job (tweaking assessment criteria in response to student feedback, updating course content each year, etc)

Tips for Addressing the Criteria

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Alongside teaching evaluations and obvious metrics, consider alternative types of evidence:

- Live class attendance (online, face-to-face)
- Interactions with your online platform
- ‘Views’ or ‘clicks’ on articles, submissions, content (not just article citations)
- Peer review feedback, and practice
- Solving community problems (information overload, critical thinking, etc)
- Graduate feedback
- Broad range of students (or staff) who have benefited
- Effective stewardship of grant or award money into teaching
- Benefits beyond the institution
- Who else is following your example?
- How long into the future will these interventions maintain benefits?
- Ability to effectively adapt due to COVID changes, government regulations (i.e. international student issues), professional body accreditation updates.

Evidence doesn’t always need to be positive…

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The VR story …

Other Tips

It can take a very, very long time to write, so think of how you can gain benefit from the process, whether you win the award or not

- Collecting evidence for your CV
- Using evaluation strategies to enhance class teaching
- Reflecting upon practice

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Questions for A/Prof Christian Moro?

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Dr Mercedez Hinchcliff

2023 Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning (Early Career)

Creating an inclusive and exceptional learning experience for students through work-integrated learning and community involvement.

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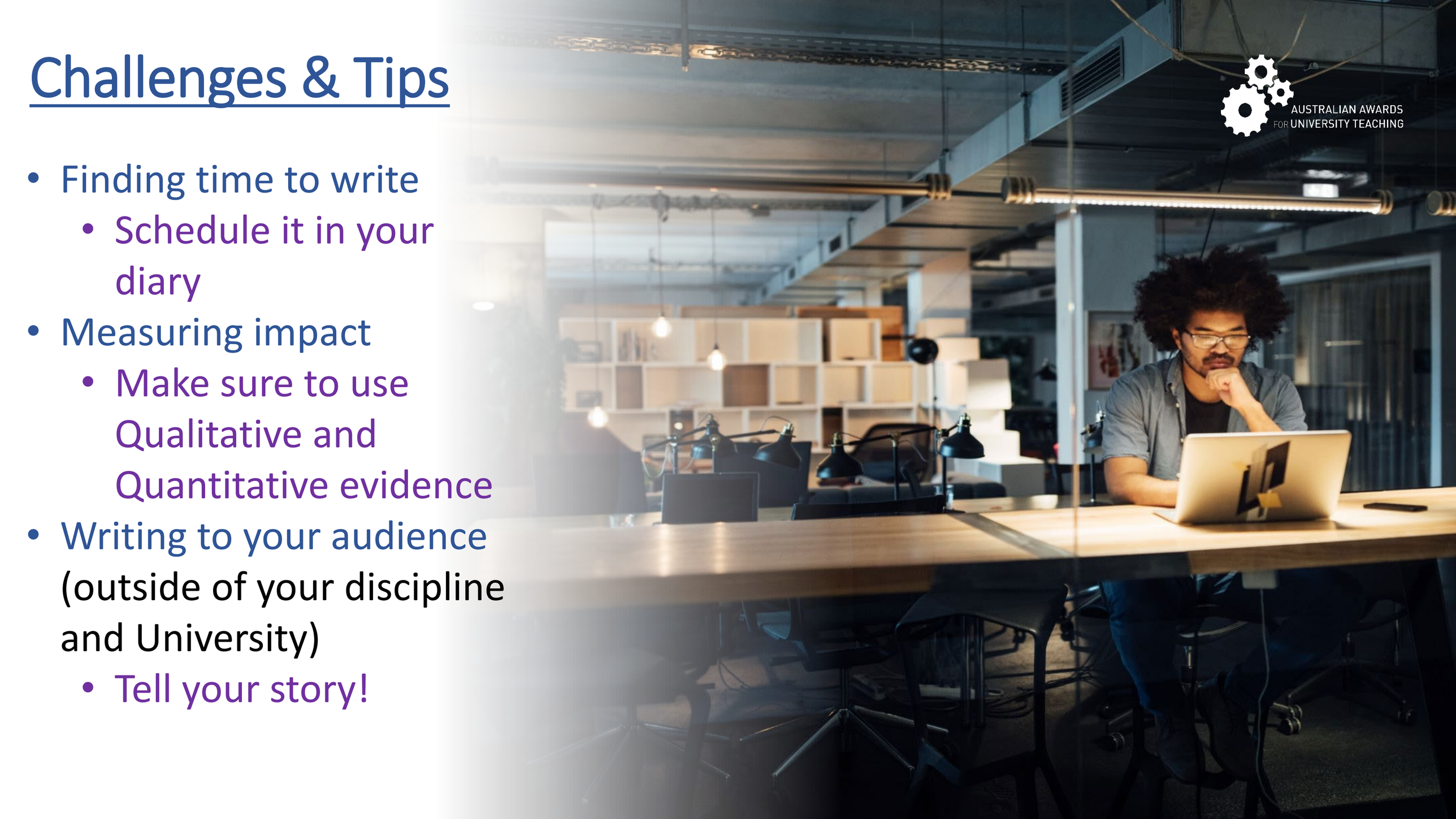
Writing the nomination

- Knowing where to start…..
- Accessing assistance within your own team and University
- Reach out to former award winners
- Understand your story and impact – Can you summarise in one sentence?
- Believe in yourself!

Challenges & Tips

- Finding time to write
  - Schedule it in your diary
- Measuring impact
  - Make sure to use Qualitative and Quantitative evidence
- Writing to your audience (outside of your discipline and University)
  - Tell your story!



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Associate Professor Nic Connelly

2022 Award for Teaching Excellence (Engineering - Early Career)

Experience of a past award recipient

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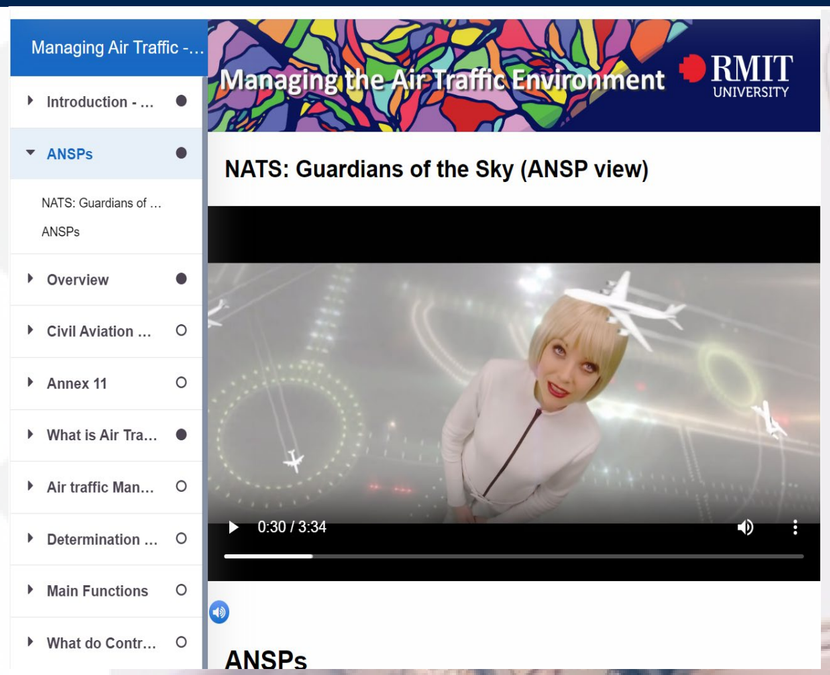
At heart of my teaching philosophy is the use of sophisticated digital tools to provide authenticity and enhance the learning experience. My teaching approach allows students significant autonomy in their assessments, using various digital platforms, enabling them to explore areas of interest and tap into their passions.

Authentic Assessment

Authentic Teaching

Industry guests and assessors



Experience writing the nomination

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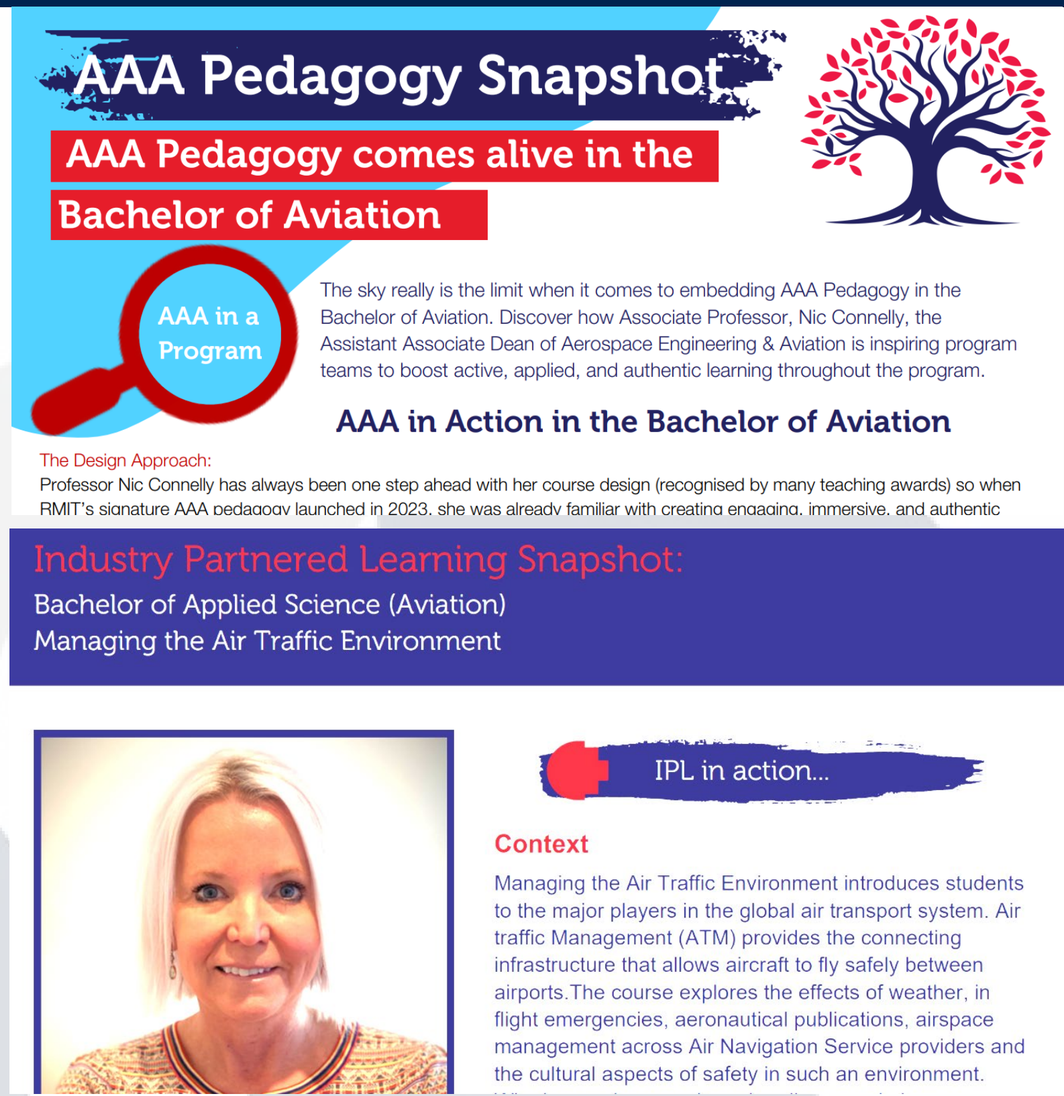
STORYTELLER: Have a clear story to tell and take your reader on the journey. Assume no knowledge by reader.
WHAT/IMPACT/RECOGNITION: if you can't articulate reconsider your story.
ADDRESS THE CRITERIA: make sure you understand what assessors are looking for and make it easy to find.
EVIDENCE: Proof of impact is vital, get creative, looks for ways to support your story. It's a long process so continue to gather evidence to support your work, this may include actively sourcing feedback.
IMPACT: Advocating your philosophies and work with the broader academic team to try and help uplift entire discipline is motivating and helps strengthen your application.
REFLECTION: Reflecting on your work is a wonderful experience, and you learn so much when you sit down and reflect on your practice and articulate why you do what you do, and how to do it better.



AAA Pedagogy Snapshot

AAA Pedagogy comes alive in the Bachelor of Aviation

AAA in a Program

The sky really is the limit when it comes to embedding AAA Pedagogy in the Bachelor of Aviation. Discover how Associate Professor, Nic Connelly, the Assistant Associate Dean of Aerospace Engineering & Aviation is inspiring program teams to boost active, applied, and authentic learning throughout the program.

AAA in Action in the Bachelor of Aviation

The Design Approach:

Professor Nic Connelly has always been one step ahead with her course design (recognised by many teaching awards) so when RMIT's signature AAA pedagogy launched in 2023, she was already familiar with creating engaging, immersive, and authentic

Industry Partnered Learning Snapshot:

Bachelor of Applied Science (Aviation)
Managing the Air Traffic Environment

IPL in action...

Context

Managing the Air Traffic Environment introduces students to the major players in the global air transport system. Air traffic Management (ATM) provides the connecting infrastructure that allows aircraft to fly safely between airports.The course explores the effects of weather, in flight emergencies, aeronautical publications, airspace management across Air Navigation Service providers and the cultural aspects of safety in such an environment.

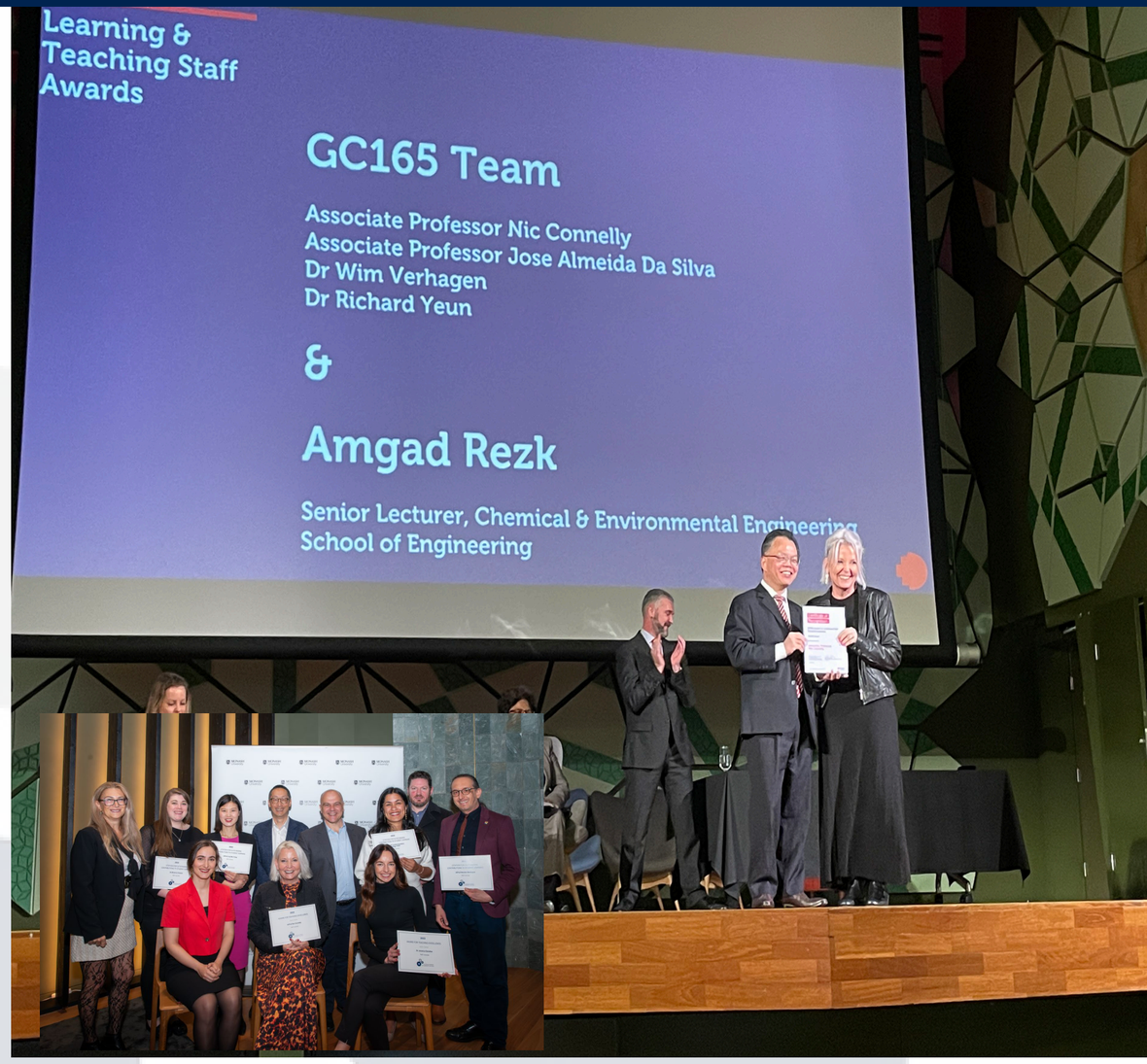
Challenges

SELLING SUCCESS: something that I am not very comfortable

SEEKING FEEDBACK: Without the evidence though, the application has no merit, ensure that you get this feedback to support your work.

WHAT ARE YOU SELLING: What is it that you have to offer that is different and unique : It is easy to try to write about everything you have ever done but it is important to stick to your story, and the key pieces that support your initiative.

QUESTION: So what??



Tips & Advice for future nominees

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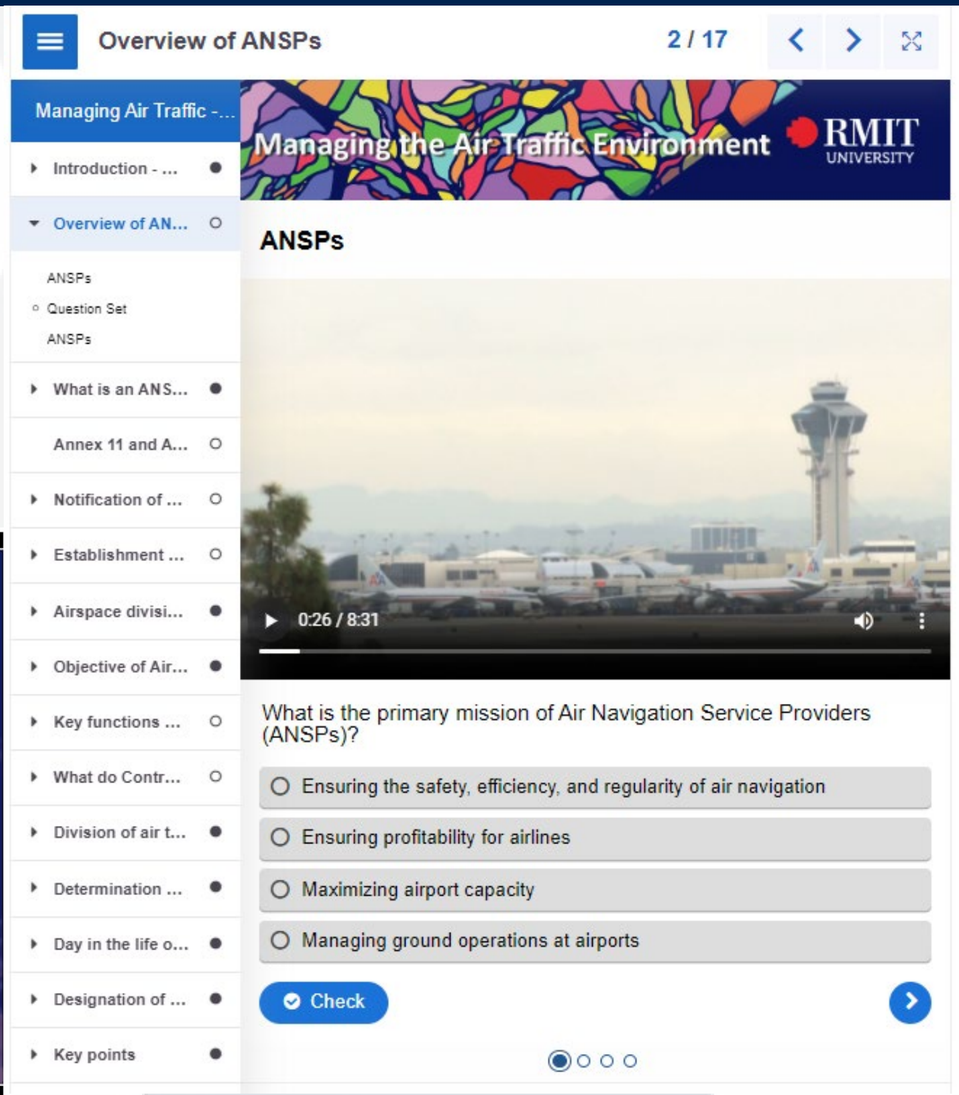
AAUT MENTORING: Great to get a fresh set of eyes and someone to question you application

FEEDBACK: It is a gift, if people take the time, you are really lucky.



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Questions?

Upcoming AAUT PD Sessions

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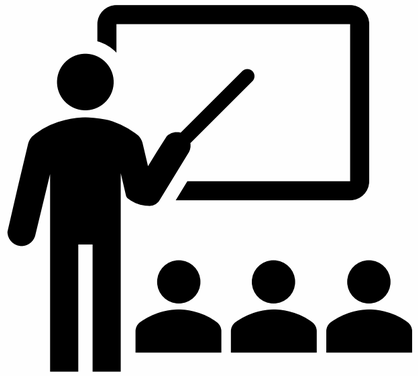

15 May–Writing a successful Teaching Award nomination

21 May–Writing a successful Citation nomination

3 June–Writing a successful Early Career Award nomination

18 June–**Writing a successful Neville Bonner Award nomination**

26 June–**Writing a successful Program Award nomination**

Recap: Key dates

May – July

Prepare nomination

12 Aug – 1 Sept

ICOs submit nominations

Oct - Dec

3-stage assessment process

Feb 2025

Universities Australia announce award outcomes

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CONNECT WITH US

More information

AAUT-UA webpage

Mentoring Scheme

aautn.org

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Universities Australia

Professor Angela Carbone