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## AAUT Director's Update

Dear colleagues,

### **Director's Message – AAUT Transition to Universities Australia**

With the recent announcement that the Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT) will transition to Universities Australia (UA), I would like to share an update with our community. From the next phase of the program, UA will assume responsibility for AAUT under an in-house model, with the transition anticipated to take effect from 25 June 2026. This shift represents an important milestone in securing the long-term sustainability and sector-wide visibility of national recognition for teaching excellence.

Over the past eight years, the AAUT program has been proudly managed by the AAUT Awards Team at RMIT, supported by a dedicated community of recipients, assessors, Institutional Contact Officers (ICOs) and senior leaders across the sector. I extend my sincere thanks for your commitment, expertise and generosity in sustaining a rigorous, collegial and nationally respected awards program.

We are working closely with UA to support a smooth handover and to maintain continuity in the recognition of teaching excellence. Further information about timelines, processes and future rounds will be communicated by UA in due course.

In the meantime, I encourage you to remain engaged with the AAUT community and to continue championing the work of outstanding educators in your institutions. Thank you once again for your ongoing support and for all that you do to advance excellence in learning and teaching.



Warm regards,  
Professor Angela Carbone  
**AAUT Director**

## TIMELINE & KEY DATES

UA WILL ORGANISE THE FOLLOWING:

**WED 17 JUNE 2026  
RELEASE NOMINATION PACKS**

**WED 24 JUNE 2026, 2PM AEST  
ICO BRIEFING SESSION**



# WHAT'S NEW?

## 2018 - 2025 AAUT Memory Lane

Thank you to everyone who has journeyed with us through many seasons of change – from the transition from face-to-face to online assessment, through the disruptions of COVID, and now into the new challenges and opportunities of embracing AI.

You are invited to sign the farewell card [here](#).



### AAUT Awards Team

Director: Professor Angela Carbone

Awards Managers: Angeline Sim, Luana Spadafora

Awards Coordinators: Anicca Maleedy-Main, Jing Ye, Daniele Patterson, Sammi Huynh

Over the years, the RMIT Awards Team has achieved the following key outcomes:

## 2018 - 2025 AAUT KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1

DEVELOPED  
COMPREHENSIVE  
NOMINEE  
RESOURCES,  
ASSESSMENT  
MATRICES AND  
FEEDBACK LETTERS

2

INTRODUCED  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
WEBINARS FOR  
NOMINEES AND  
ASSESSORS

3

LAUNCHED A  
MONTHLY AAUT  
NEWSLETTER TO  
STRENGTHEN  
SECTOR-WIDE  
COMMUNICATION

4

REINSTATED THE  
CAREER  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD IN 2020

5

EXPANDED  
RECOGNITION  
THROUGH  
INSTITUTION-FUNDED  
STATE-BASED  
CEREMONIES

6

BUILT NATIONAL  
PARTNERSHIPS,  
INCLUDING THE  
HERDSA NATIONAL  
WEBINAR SERIES  
AND ADELAIDE  
UNIVERSITY  
BREAKFAST SERIES

## UA New AAUT Awards Team



From 25 June 2026, UA will assume responsibility for the Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT). All AAUT-related enquiries should be directed to [aaut@uniaus.edu.au](mailto:aaut@uniaus.edu.au).

You can also contact **Ms Aimee Cassels**, UA AAUT Awards Manager, on **02 6285 8107** for further information.

## AAUT and HERDSA Webinar Series



The next webinar session will be held in August.

Save the dates for upcoming sessions in 2026 (1pm to 2pm Melbourne time):

- Thursday, 27 August 2026
- Thursday, 24 September 2026

#### Watch the recordings:

- [Designing Inclusive Student Experiences: Advancing Diversity in Higher Education](#) (28 May 2026) *A number of resources were shared by participants during the session; these have been compiled and added to the description of the YouTube video*
- [Indigenous Knowledges in Action: Transforming Higher Education from the Ground Up](#) (26 March 2026)
- [Work Integrated Learning \(WIL\): Building Sustainable Collaborative Partnerships](#) (30 April 2026)

## AAUT and HERDSA 2026 Annual Conference - Singapore



Professor Angela Carbone will be presenting the AAUT-HERDSA collaboration at the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA) 2026 Annual Conference.

Join us at the **AAUT Information Session** on **Thursday, 9 July 2026, 1.05–1.35pm (Singapore Standard Time)**. If you are an AAUT recipient or assessor, or are interested in connecting, please drop by for some networking.

See you there. Find out more [here](#).

## AAUT and Adelaide University Breakfast Series: 25 June

The **AAUT & Adelaide University Breakfast Series** runs **monthly from April to November (except July), 8am – 9am (ACT)**. Now in its third year, this collaboration with the **Teaching and Learning Innovation Unit at Adelaide University** showcases AAUT recipients and highlights innovative teaching practices and programs across the sector.

The third session will be presented by **Pearson, Le Busque and Richardson Team (Adelaide University)** - 2025 AAUT Citation recipient.

4 June 2026

## 2026 Adelaide University/AAUT Teaching and Learning Breakfast Series

Building real-world skills in first-year psychology education: Enhancing student well-being through fostering connection with nature in a fully online course

**Presented by Associate Professor Elissa Person,  
Dr Brianna Le Busque and Dr Amanda Richardson, Adelaide University**

This session will showcase the development and evaluation of an AAUT Citation-winning online uni-wide elective course that uses psychological connection to nature to enhance student learning and well-being. Designed to address the gap between academic learning and life for students, tackle increasing rates of student stress, and foster improved human-nature relationships, the course has engaged over 900 students since 2021, demonstrating improved nature connectedness and student well-being, increased environmental care and concern, and leaving students with practical evidence-based strategies for lifelong flourishing.



Dr Amanda Richardson, Dr Brianna Le Busque, and Associate Professor Elissa Person

**Date:** Thursday 25 June, 2026

**Time:** 8:00am - 9:00am ACST

**Location:** Online via zoom

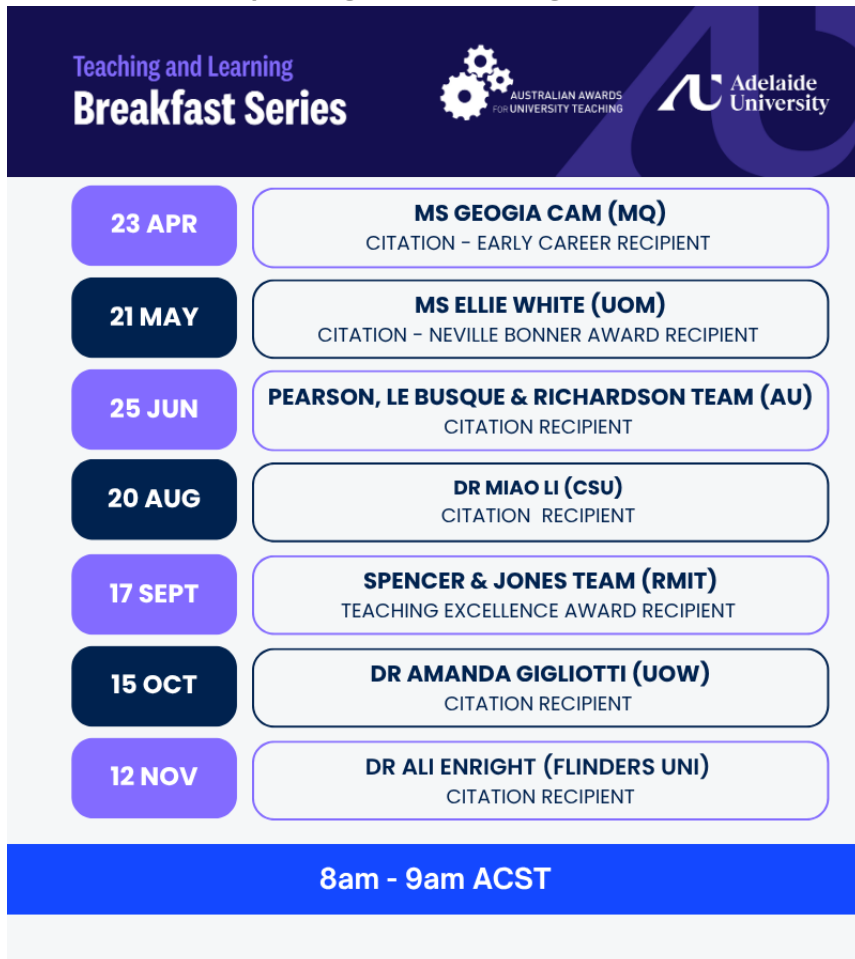
**Registration:** [Click here](#)

Details for the next session will be posted on the [AAUTN](#) webpage and emailed to all ICOs.

Watch the recording:

- [Advancing Cultural Advocacy in Health Education](#) (21 May)
- [Enhancing Situated Learning in the Classroom with Generative AI Simulations](#) (23 April)

Save the dates for upcoming sessions throughout 2026



The graphic is a calendar for the 'Teaching and Learning Breakfast Series' in 2026. It features a dark blue header with the series title, the 'Australian Awards for University Teaching' logo (three gears), and the 'Adelaide University' logo. Below the header, a list of dates and recipients is presented in a grid-like format. Each date is in a purple box, and each recipient's name and award are in a white box with a purple border. At the bottom, a blue bar indicates the time '8am - 9am ACST'.

Date	Recipient	Award
23 APR	MS GEOGIA CAM (MQ)	CITATION - EARLY CAREER RECIPIENT
21 MAY	MS ELLIE WHITE (UOM)	CITATION - NEVILLE BONNER AWARD RECIPIENT
25 JUN	PEARSON, LE BUSQUE & RICHARDSON TEAM (AU)	CITATION RECIPIENT
20 AUG	DR MIAO LI (CSU)	CITATION RECIPIENT
17 SEPT	SPENCER & JONES TEAM (RMIT)	TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT
15 OCT	DR AMANDA GIGLIOTTI (UOW)	CITATION RECIPIENT
12 NOV	DR ALI ENRIGHT (FLINDERS UNI)	CITATION RECIPIENT

8am - 9am ACST

## AAUT State-Based Ceremonies

The 2025 AAUT state-based ceremonies have now concluded. Thank you to all host institutions for celebrating the achievements of award recipients across their regions:

- **NSW & ACT Ceremony - Western Sydney University** - [Photo Gallery](#).
- **VIC & TAS Ceremony - The University of Melbourne** - [Photo Gallery](#).
- **SA & NT Ceremony - Flinders University** - [Photo Gallery](#) (Coming soon)
- **QLD Ceremony - The University of Queensland** - [Photo Gallery](#).
- **WA Ceremony - Murdoch University** - [Photo Gallery](#). (To view the photos, select 'Enter as Guest'; to download, use PIN: 2986)



# RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT



## Get to know Teaching Excellence Award Recipient: Dr Samuel Cunningham

Dr Sam Cunningham has led impactful, technology-enhanced initiatives that have strengthened the student experience at QUT and influenced practice across the higher education sector. His work focuses on three key areas: improving student success in first-year engineering, reforming institutional evaluation processes, and building the capability of Australian engineering educators. Across these domains, Sam demonstrates how effective use of educational technology can support evidence-based practice and create more inclusive learning environments.

Read profile: [Dr Samuel Cunningham](#)

Watch video [here](#)

# AAUT RESOURCES



For the 2026 AAUT information, visit [AAUT-UA website](#).



For latest AAUT news, please visit the [AAUTN website](#).



[Learning and Teaching Repository](#)

A collection of higher education learning and teaching research valuable to any university academic. Access topical resources and news, or contribute a new resource.

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- [!\[\]\(a3e353064d49518eba7215674cc53044\_img.jpg\) Universities Australia - AAUT website](#)
  - [!\[\]\(e62391daf7cd84201aa45f7a0e5f66a7\_img.jpg\) AAUTnetwork](#)
  - [!\[\]\(fb2dc96057e6cb05145d98b1ccc95f16\_img.jpg\) Universities Australia](#)
  - [!\[\]\(67f6a1563c20904c0ac3df887f9b3b90\_img.jpg\) AAUT-Network website](#)
  - [!\[\]\(97614247eec28cc0dfb1fe51dbbdbf35\_img.jpg\) IFNTE](#)
  - [!\[\]\(d353f066d50ee8db186fabbeb1087b60\_img.jpg\) YouTube - Prof Ange Carbone, AAUT Director](#)
  - [!\[\]\(b26f8e7a92aec3812bb80ca9c7fceab6\_img.jpg\) Email the Awards team](#)

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