

FACULTY TEACHING AWARD

Description

To encourage and recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES)

Eligibility

- Continuing academic staff in Categories A1.1, through A1.6 (inclusive), Temporary academic staff (Categories A2.1 and A2.2) as well as staff in Categories A3.1 and A3.2 (Trust staff)¹
- At least three years teaching experience (in courses totaling at least *18 course weight) at the University of Alberta; for temporary staff, three years is defined as contracts in three different academic years²
- Nominees must have been teaching within the last 24 months of the date of nomination
- Each winner is ineligible for reconsideration for the award for the following five years

Criteria³

- Exhibits a consistently superior command of the subject matter
- Demonstrates excellent planning and organization in course outlines and objectives, reading and laboratory assignments, handouts, projects, grading schemes, examinations and all other material associated with undergraduate courses
- Instills vital interest in and enthusiasm for the subject on the part of students
- Strongly encourages and fosters independent study
- Generates a desire for continued learning
- Strongly encourages students to be critical, to think independently and to solve problems
- Presents the subject matter at an appropriate level of rigor
- Requires that students have a comprehensive, coherent understanding of the subject matter
- Consistently demonstrates a concern for student progress and is available and approachable for out-of-classroom consultation
- Is a valuable resource for both students and colleagues

Nomination Package

The nomination package should provide supporting information addressing the award criteria, while being consistent with nomination requirements for the [Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching](#)⁴; specifically,

- Name of nominee(s) and nominator(s)
- Letters of support from students and/or colleagues; student letters should comment on quality of teaching over a period of years and range of courses; letters from colleagues that comment on teaching methods, course materials, range of courses, and other activities related to teaching, are encouraged

¹ Categories are defined as in [Recruitment Policy \(Appendix A\) Definition and Categories of Academic Staff, Administrators and Colleagues](#).

² An academic year is July 1 to June 30.

³ These are largely the same criteria as are used for the [Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching](#).

⁴ External peer evaluations are NOT required for Faculty Teaching Award nominations.

- Teaching dossier of the nominee that includes a statement of teaching philosophy
- USRI scores for “Overall, the quality of the course was excellent”, and “Overall, this instructor was excellent”

Nomination packages should not be longer than 20 pages, and should not include materials such as course outlines, examples of examinations, term work (e.g., term papers/projects, assignments), etc.⁵ Given that this is an undergraduate teaching award, information about graduate teaching and supervision is not relevant. A brief curriculum vitae may be included with the package, however.

Adjudication

This award will be adjudicated by the ALES Awards Committee.

Application Deadline

- **Deadline for submission: August 14, 2020**
 - All nominations/applications are to be sent electronically to Rehana Bennett, rbennet@ualberta.ca
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⁵ Nominators are encouraged, however, to assemble and organize these types of teaching materials for candidates in the event that their nomination is successful. Such materials are important for university-level competitions (e.g., Rutherford) so that external peer evaluators are able to properly assess nomination packages.