

NACTA TEACHING AWARD OF MERIT

Description

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

This winners of this this award will receive a Certificate of Merit signed by the President of NACTA and the Dean of ALES ([Teaching Award of Merit \(nactateachers.org\)](http://nactateachers.org))

Eligibility

- Full time continuing academic staff in Categories¹ A1.1 through A1.4 (inclusive) and A1.6
- Teaching in ALES, in the areas of agricultural, environmental, natural and/or life sciences
- Must be responsible for at least one course equivalent in teaching in the Faculty in the previous year
- This award is intended to recognize individual achievements in teaching and learning. Groups of teachers or teaching units are encouraged to consider the University teaching unit awards.
- Nominators should consider the equity, diversity, and inclusivity elements of the University of Alberta's [Strategic Plan for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity](#) when developing nominations

Criteria²

- 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
- Contributes to and impacts equity, diversity, and inclusivity outside of the scholarly community and/or within the scholarly community

Nomination Package (required elements)

1. Name of nominee(s) and nominator(s)
2. At least three letters of support from students (former and/or current) emphasizing impact of the nominee's teaching effectiveness (templates available)
3. At least one letter of support from a teaching colleague or department chair (template available)
4. A brief statement of the nominee's supervision philosophy (350 word limit)
5. A list of graduate courses taught and graduate students supervised in the last 5 years
6. A list of courses taught in the last 5 years
7. Evidence of teaching excellence

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

¹ These are largely the same criteria as are used for the [Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching](#).

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.³ Given that this is an undergraduate teaching award, information about graduate teaching and supervision is not relevant.

Notes: If this nomination is intended to be submitted for the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching competition, further detailed information is needed to the requirements for that award.

If this nomination is intended to be submitted to the North American Colleges and Teachers “NACTA Educator” award competition, further detailed information is needed as outlined on the NACTA site: [NACTA Educator \(nactateachers.org\)](http://nactateachers.org)

Adjudication

This award will be adjudicated by the ALES Awards Committee.

Application Deadline

- Deadline for submission: **November 17, 2023**
- All nominations/applications are to be sent electronically to Chair, ALES Awards Committee – vic.adamowicz@ualberta.ca

³ 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.