

2015 Citations Assessment Report

In 2015, 183 Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning nominations were received from 39 eligible institutions. The Minister for Education and Training approved the awarding of 96 citations to nominees from 36 institutions, including 17 in the Early Career category. A list of citation recipients may be found at Attachment A and a summary of the number of recipients by criteria, at Attachment B.

Nominees were required to select one criterion determined by the nature of their contribution to student learning. Nominations were assessed, using a scale of 1-5 (where 5 is the highest), on the quality of the nomination against the criteria, and on the extent to which the nominee provided evidence in the written statement that their contribution had:

1. Influenced student learning, student engagement or the overall student experience
2. Gained recognition from fellow staff, the institution and/or the broader community
3. Been sustained for a period of no less than three years (two years for early career).

The following selection criteria, as defined in the *2015 Australian Awards for University Teaching Programme information and nomination instructions* were applied:

1. Approaches to teaching and the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn
2. Development of curricula, resources and services that reflect a command of the field
3. Evaluation practices that bring about improvements in learning and teaching
4. Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or the student experience

Thirty assessors, representing twenty eight institutions and eight states and territories, were recruited to assess the nominations. Each nomination was assessed by a minimum of two assessors who did not review nominations from their own institutions.

General assessor comments on nominations

At the conclusion of the assessment day, assessors were asked to comment on areas of the citation nomination assessment procedures. The following remarks were made by the assessors:

Overall, 76 per cent of assessors rated the quality of the nominations as good, 8 per cent as average and 16 per cent as excellent. Nearly 90 per cent of assessors agreed that the nominees understood and met the selection criteria in the nominations.

Assessors rated the quality of this year's nominations highly. Institutions' increasing support of nominees and the improvement of their processes positively influenced the quality of nominations. Some assessors commented the recommended nominations gave them such a sense of inspiration that they would like to be in the nominees' classes. They also appreciated the diversity in disciplines that has evolved over time.

Assessors also indicated some issues that future nominees may like to consider:

- Nominees need to work on the strength of their argument and develop a better structure for their nominations. There is a lack of teaching context and incoherence of the teaching philosophy.
- Student voices are now being heard more strongly than before, but there is a lack of evidence beyond that. It is more convincing for a nomination to show a range of different types of evidence from different perspectives.
- Some individual nominations have written statements and references which are inconsistent. The nomination may speak of individuals and team leaders, whereas the references and other evidence speak of the work completed as the result of a team.
- Some nominations did not select the appropriate criterion when presenting their argument. It is important to build a strong case against the selected criterion and be precise about what the citation concerns.
- Nominees should show the sustainability of the impact of their contribution or work instead of the sustainability of their career.

2015 Citation recipients by institution

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Citations</i>
Australian Catholic University	2
Bond University	3
Central Queensland University	1
Charles Sturt University	1
Curtin University	3
Deakin University	2
Edith Cowan University	3
Federation University Australia	1
Flinders University	2
Griffith University	5
James Cook University	4
La Trobe University	2
Macquarie University	1
Monash University	4
Murdoch University	1
Queensland University of Technology	5
RMIT University	2
Southern Cross University	2
Swinburne University of Technology	2
The Australian National University	2
The University of Adelaide	4
The University of Melbourne	4
The University of New South Wales	4
The University of Newcastle	2
The University of Queensland	4
The University of Sydney	2
The University of Western Australia	2
University of New England	2
University of South Australia	1
University of Southern Queensland	1
University of Tasmania	6
University of Technology, Sydney	3
University of the Sunshine Coast	5
University of Western Sydney	1
University of Wollongong	4
Victoria University	3

2015 Citation nominations by criteria and recipients

<i>Selection Criteria</i>	<i>Number of nominations</i>	<i>Number of Recipients</i>	<i>Recommended by Expert Panel</i>	<i>Approved by Minister</i>
1	102	49	49	49
2	43	28	28	28
3	1	0	0	0
4	37	19	19	19
Total	183	96	96	96

Criteria:

1. Approaches to teaching and the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn
2. Development of curricula, resources or services that reflect a command of the field
3. Evaluation practices that bring about improvements in teaching and learning
4. Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or the student experience