Application Guideline: National Teaching Fellowship

Introduction

The Australian Government’s Office for Learning and Teaching administers the National Teaching Fellowship, the National Senior Teaching Fellowship, and the Academic Secondments program.

The Fellowships program advances learning and teaching in higher education by supporting a group of leading educators to undertake strategic, high-profile activities in areas of importance to the sector. Through their fellowship activities, Fellows have a positive and lasting influence and impact on higher education practice in Australia.

National Teaching Fellowship

National Teaching Fellows are prominent scholars in their disciplinary fields, recognised by their home institutions for their capacity to make significant contributions to educational leadership into the future. They are normally early or mid-career academics engaged in the scholarly practice of learning and teaching in higher education.

National Teaching Fellows undertake a short program of activities over the course of nine to twelve months, addressing an identified learning and teaching issue within their institution or discipline, with the goal of enhancing disciplinary or inter-disciplinary teaching and learning within their institution, and beyond.

Objective

National Teaching Fellows will devise and undertake fellowship activities that promote and enhance learning and teaching in their home institution or discipline. To fulfil this objective, National Teaching Fellows will:

- identify a learning and teaching issue, within or across the discipline, and facilitate an approach to addressing these issues
- show leadership in promoting and enhancing learning and teaching in higher education, within and beyond their home institutions
- establish and build on national partnerships in learning and teaching in higher education
- foster networks with recipients of Teaching Awards, current Fellows, Fellows' Alumni and educators in higher education.

Eligibility

Individuals who are employed by an eligible higher education institution may nominate for a Fellowship, with the support of their home institution.
National Teaching Fellows will normally be early or mid-career academics engaged in the scholarly practice of learning and teaching in higher education in Australia. They will have demonstrated expertise and scholarship in a field of relevance to the proposed fellowship activities.

Selection Criteria
Applications should address the following four criteria, which will be assessed by an OLT Standing Committee:

1. Capacity of the nominee to play a leadership role in higher education learning and teaching
2. Alignment of the proposed fellowship activities and outcomes with the aims of the Fellowships program
3. Alignment of the proposed fellowship activities and outcomes with the Government’s national priorities in higher education
4. Endorsement and support of the nominee by their home institution.

Requirements
Nominees are required to propose the activities they plan to undertake during the fellowship year and to identify and define the expected outcomes and timeline. In preparing this proposal, nominees are advised to align clearly their activities with the overall aims of the Fellowships program and specifically with the objectives of National Teaching Fellowships.

Nominations are assessed on the basis of the documentary information provided, including: the written statement and proposal prepared by the nominee; the statement of institutional support; the nominee’s curriculum vitae; and references. This assessment is carried out by experts in the nominee’s discipline and by senior executives from higher education institutions, normally pro or deputy vice-chancellors. The Standing Committee reviews all nominations and assessments.

The quality and timeliness of the nominee’s work funded by the OLT’s predecessor bodies may be taken into account when considering the nomination.

Full application requirements, including format, page lengths and other criteria can be found in the OLTs Fellowship Program Information and Application Instructions, available from the OLT website.

National Teaching Fellowship Funding
Nominees are required to submit a fully itemised budget and justification for the funds being requested. A maximum of $90,000 is available for each National Teaching Fellowship.

Stipend commensurate with the successful nominee’s salary plus on-costs (up to 28%) at their home institution is available. Funding is not available for additional salary loadings individuals may receive from their home institution.
The stipend is intended to provide for part-time release from all or most normal academic duties for a period of three months equivalent full-time. It is recognised that fellows may wish to maintain certain academic activities during the full-time fellowship period. These activities should be outlined in the nomination proposal.

The National Teaching Fellow's home institution is eligible for a grant of up to 10% ($9,000) to support fellowship costs not otherwise covered by the fellowship funding provided by OLT.

**CDU Requirements**

Academic staff considering applying for a fellowship should discuss their interest with their Head of School or Faculty, and with the OLT Education and Training Development representative for their school.

In preparing a budget for the application, academic staff should consult with Human Resources and the Office for Research and Innovation to ensure appropriate costs are included.