



ABOUT THE ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

Introduction

The Academic Fellowship Scheme aims to support focused, relevant and discipline-based professional development leading to both practical innovations and research-informed outcomes. Importantly, the outcomes of such fellowships should result in better quality teaching and improved outcomes for learners. Academic Fellows are prestigious positions that recognise innovation and emerging leadership in teaching and learning. Fellowships release staff from their normal responsibilities to work on strategically prioritised teaching-related initiatives with clearly defined milestones and deliverables. A distinguishing feature of this scheme is the emphasis placed on supporting innovation within the tradition of the scholarship of teaching and learning, as Academic Fellows are expected to develop a practical teaching enhancement along with related research outputs.

Key aspects of the scheme

The Academic Fellowship Scheme involves:

- Applicants submitting a proposal to work on a specific teaching-related innovation consistent with the aims of the Academic Fellowship Scheme.
- Successful applicants being released from normal teaching responsibilities over the duration of the fellowship.
- Fellows making a commitment to meeting agreed milestones and completing the terms of the specific fellowship within the timeframe.
- Head of unit approval to allow release from normal teaching responsibilities for the period of the secondment.
- Head of unit sign off on the budget submitted to cover teaching release and development expenses incurred over the term of fellowship.
- Fellows hosted by the National Centre for Teaching & Learning and working in close liaison with Campus Teaching and Learning Centres.
- Leadership of a practical teaching innovation of strategic value that helps to enhance the quality of teaching and improves outcomes for learners.
- Engaging widely with colleagues across the University and participating in relevant professional development events.
- At least one scholarly output produced based on the work undertaken over the duration of the fellowship.
- Head of unit support for participation at relevant events and conferences and assistance with travel and accommodation costs to disseminate the innovation.
- Fellows engaging in innovative projects linked to the strategic priorities of the University and aligned with the mission of the Teaching and Learning Development Framework.

Types of fellowships

There are two types of Academic Fellows: (i) Open Fellowships and (ii) Targeted Fellowships. Open fellowships are intended to support teaching innovations in any area or academic discipline. At least one academic fellowship will be advertised each year in a targeted area of strategic importance, consistent with the major objectives of the National Teaching and Learning

Centre.

Value of the fellowship

Each Academic Fellowship is valued at \$25,000 for the period of the fellowship. This funding can be used to support teaching release along with development, production and dissemination costs. A full budget indicating how the funding will be used must be submitted with the fellowship application.

Length of the fellowship

The duration of the fellowship is for no more than one calendar year in which the funding is available. Successful applicants will normally be advised of their fellowship before the start of the new calendar year.

Number of fellows each year

At least one Academic Fellow will be awarded each year. Collaborative applications involving teams of staff will also be considered but normally there will be a single project leader for the fellowship application.

Why apply for a fellowship?

Academic Fellows are prestigious positions. They recognise innovation and leadership in teaching and learning and allow recipients to dedicate quality time to pedagogical enhancements that promote an exceptional and distinctive learning experience. In addition to leading to a practical innovation in teaching, fellowships provide an opportunity for staff to reflect on their practice drawing on the contemporary higher education literature. Academic Fellows also have a valuable opportunity to influence University policy in the area of their innovation. Another important outcome of the fellowship is a peer review publication in the tradition of the scholarship of teaching and learning along with introduction to a wider internal network of staff and external community of practice in the area of their chosen innovation.

Who can apply?

All academic staff whose terms of employment extend beyond the period of the fellowship are eligible to apply. General staff whose roles specifically relate to teaching and learning development may also be eligible to apply when the proposed initiative has wider strategic importance.

Applications due

The deadline for applications is early **December** each year.

Further Information

To seek further information or discuss your application, please contact:

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