



**IRELAND'S TEACHING AND LEARNING
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS**

Call Document 2019

Ireland's Teaching and Learning Research Fellowships

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National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

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Preface

The National Forum's mission is to lead the enhancement of teaching and learning in partnership with students, staff and leaders in Irish higher education to develop an inclusive, collaborative and innovative culture that maximises learning impact for the success of all students. We work in collaboration with those who teach, learn and shape policy and practice to ensure a valued and informed teaching and learning culture in Irish higher education. We know that immense teaching and learning expertise and experience exists across the sector. We realise that this expertise and experience is a blend of practice and scholarship, and that the sector as a whole can and should benefit from the deep reserves of theoretical knowledge, practice wisdom, collegiality and professional integrity that contribute to the quality of the teaching and learning experience, for staff and students, and that enrich our learning communities.

In establishing Ireland's inaugural Teaching and Learning Research Fellowships, we wish to acknowledge those in our sector who have made an outstanding contribution to the practice and scholarship of teaching and learning. The intention is to celebrate how they have understood and successfully built upon the synergies that exist between teaching and research, and to support them in extending and sharing their knowledge. We believe that the Fellowships will nurture the complementarity between teaching and research and that practically they will provide a robust evidence base which will inform and guide good teaching and learning practice.

In addition to acknowledging exceptional commitment to a valued and informed teaching and learning culture in higher education, Ireland's Teaching and Learning Research Fellowships will perform an essential role in helping us to prepare for anticipated and indeed unanticipated changes in the sector. We are delighted that we will partner with the Irish Research Council as we support Fellows to bring their experience and insightfulness to bear on future concerns and possibilities. The Fellowships represent an exciting opportunity to provide the knowledge and evidence that will help us to make meaningful decisions towards supporting all staff and students into the future.

Dr Terry Maguire

Director, National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

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Introduction

The national learning impact awards, co-ordinated through the National Forum, aim to support individual and institutional efforts to promote, learn from and extend the reach of excellent practice in teaching and learning across Irish higher education. To date, the National Forum has led the development of three national Learning Impact Awards. The first rounds of the student-led Teaching Hero Awards were completed in September 2014 and 2016, one round of the institution-led Teaching Expert Awards was completed in 2015, and the discipline-focused DELTA Awards were presented in 2018. The objectives of the Learning Impact Awards are to

- enhance and motivate outstanding teaching in all our higher education institutions.
- showcase and strengthen excellence in higher education and value teaching at a national level.
- reward excellent teaching practice and scholarship.
- offer the greatest opportunity for participation by all higher education institutions, both public and private.

Following a review of the Learning Impact Awards in 2019, it was decided to evolve the Teaching Expert Awards into Ireland's first Teaching and Learning Research Fellowships, in partnership with the Irish Research Council. The establishment of the Fellowships, at this time, is a recognition of the substantial breadth and depth of teaching and learning experience and expertise that exists in Irish higher education. As the most prestigious national individual teaching and learning award, the Fellowships are an opportunity to recognise and reward colleagues across the sector who have made an outstanding contribution to the practice and scholarship of teaching and learning.

This document has been produced for colleagues who may be interested in applying for the Teaching and Learning Research Fellowships. It is designed to answer questions potential applicants might have about the nature of the Fellowships and the application process. A dedicated webpage, containing further information, is available at www.teachingandlearning.ie/fellowships.

What are Ireland's Teaching and Learning Research Fellowships?

The Teaching and Learning Research Fellowships are Ireland's most prestigious national individual teaching and learning awards. The Fellowships will

- recognise, reward and celebrate those who have demonstrated, through practice, scholarship and leadership, a deep commitment to the enhancement of teaching and learning in higher education.
- provide an opportunity for Fellows to share their knowledge and to expand their expertise in a variety of ways, including through research and scholarship, both nationally and internationally.
- provide a robust evidence base for future teaching and learning enhancement decision-making across the sector.

The scholarly evidence generated through these Fellowships, by those who have been recognised for their commitment to enhanced teaching and learning practice, will lay the foundation for a valued and informed teaching and learning culture in Irish higher education.

The Fellowships at a glance

- The Fellowships are individual awards.
- Up to five Fellowships will be awarded as part of this inaugural call.
- The Fellowships will each have a value of €45,000.
- There will be three stages in the application process, with applications being reviewed by a panel of students and national and international experts.
- The Fellowship awardees will be announced on 9 June 2020.
- The Fellowships will commence on 1 July 2020 and end on 31 December 2021.
- Those applicants who are successful in securing a Fellowship will remain as employees of their respective institutions while working on projects of strategic importance to the higher education sector.

Who can apply for a Fellowship?

The Fellowship process is open to all those who teach¹ in Irish higher education.

Applicants must have a doctoral qualification or professional equivalent and must have at least 10 years of experience working in Irish higher education to be eligible to apply for a Fellowship.

All those who apply need to be in a position to fulfil the Fellowship if awarded and therefore must have a contract of employment that covers the period up until December 2021.

There is no maximum number of applications per higher education institution, but all applications will require institutional sign-off, as detailed in the three-stage application process.

What will a Fellowship involve?

Fellowship recipients will complete an individual research project which will be directly related to national higher education priorities. The topic of the project will be discussed and agreed with the National Forum once the Fellowship has been awarded. This discussion will take account of national priorities, the experience and expertise of the awarded Fellows, and the project ideas that are suggested at Stage 3 of the selection process.

Each Fellowship will result in at least one publication, in partnership with the National Forum, which will report the achievements, outputs and potential implications of the research. The form of this publication will be negotiated with the Fellows and will be reflective of the work completed; as with all other National Forum publications it will be open access.

The Fellowship funding will support successful applicants in the completion of the agreed project. The funding associated with the Fellowship may be used to support the work involved in the following ways:

- for research assistance
- for study visits and/or international mobility
- for conference fees and costs associated with presenting at conferences and other fora
- for related domestic and/or international travel
- to support workshops and seminars associated with the Fellowship
- for the development and publication of open access outputs associated with the Fellowship
- for necessary software licenses and equipment (up to an agreed maximum of total project costs)
- to buy out teaching and/or buy out the administrative and/or assessment workload associated with teaching
- for other appropriate activity with the prior agreement of the National Forum

¹ In line with the National Professional Development Framework for All Staff Who Teach in Higher Education, 'teach' used in this document is inclusive of all the activities involved in the teaching and the facilitation of student learning. The term incorporates the principles of student engagement in the learning process.

Will I be working by myself?

The Fellowship is an individual award involving an individual research project. Nevertheless, reflecting the National Forum ethos, recipients will be expected to connect with each other and work collaboratively to identify and leverage synergies across their projects, and to ensure that there is no duplication of effort or output. Recipients will also be expected to share their work within and beyond their community, including through the production of their individual publications and possible co-authored publication(s).

How do I apply?

The Fellowships will use a rigorous and transparent three-stage application and selection process. Applications for all stages will be made online at www.teachingandlearning.ie/fellowships. The application form for Stage 1 is now open.

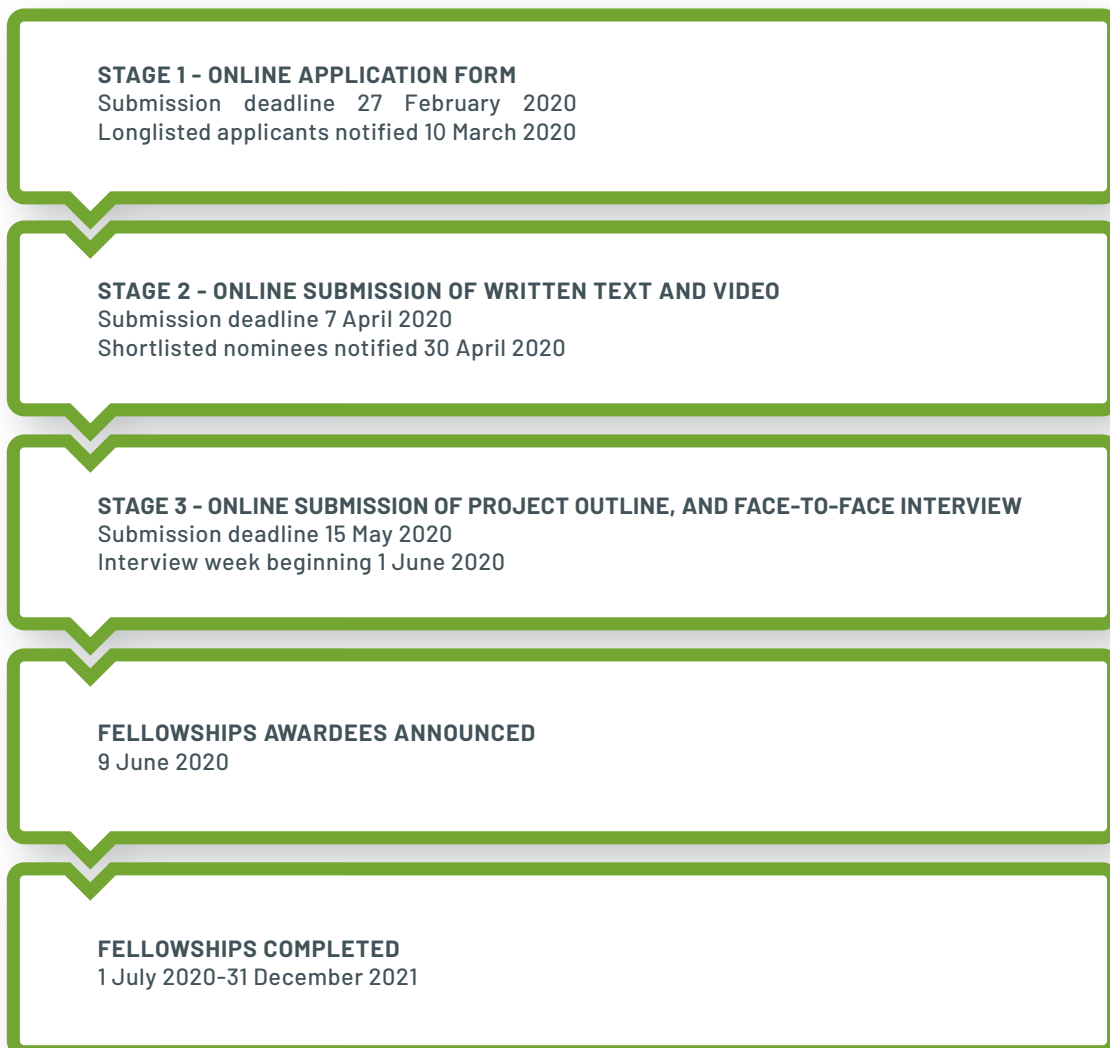


Figure 1: Overview of the application process

STAGE 1

The purpose of Stage 1 is to provide applicants with the opportunity to demonstrate a track record of contributing to the practice and scholarship of teaching and learning in higher education. At this first stage applications will be longlisted with reference to a number of indicators which are reflective of the broader selection criteria. Selection will be based on the number of indicators which are fulfilled. A list of indicators for this stage can be found in the appendix.

All applications at this first stage will require sign-off by your head of department/line manager.

In addition, at this first selection stage you will be asked to indicate which of the four National Forum strategic priorities best reflects your expertise and experience.

STAGE 2

Successful applicants from Stage 1 will be invited to progress to Stage 2 of the selection process. Stage 2 includes two elements:

1. A short written piece (maximum 750 words) which articulates your perspective on the national and international higher education context, including policy and practice, within which teaching and learning enhancement is currently situated, and the associated challenges and opportunities for the future. In this piece, you will be asked to make direct reference to, and maintain a specific focus on, just one of the four National Forum strategic priorities.
2. A short video (5 – 7 minutes) which captures your motivation for applying for the Fellowship, outlines how you fulfil the Fellowship criteria, and describes the impact you anticipate the Fellowship will have for you personally and more broadly for the sector. Within the video you will be asked to refer to your professional values and why teaching and learning enhancement matters to you. The video is intended to capture the breadth of your higher education experience, your student centredness, leadership qualities, exceptionality, commitment and credibility.

Those who progress to Stage 2 will be given further guidance at that point.

STAGE 3

Stage 3 of the selection process involves three elements:

1. An outline of an individual project idea which is aligned to one of the National Forum strategic priorities and is achievable over the duration of the Fellowship. You will be asked for this idea in order to demonstrate your understanding of project management and to evidence your insightfulness in terms of addressing the National Forum priorities. As final Fellowship project topics will be negotiated with successful applicants, Fellows may not necessarily be pursuing their suggested project idea during the Fellowship.
2. An interview with a review panel to discuss the material submitted in Stages 1 and 2 of the process and to consider the project idea in order to evaluate the extent to which the Fellowship criteria are fulfilled.
3. A short biography (maximum 150 words) and photograph which will be posted with the list of Teaching and Learning Research Fellowship nominees on the National Forum website.

At this point, nominees may be expected to provide links to/copies of the evidence cited in Stage 1 of the process.

Stage 3 will require endorsement by the director/president of your institution.

Those who progress to Stage 3 will be given further guidance at that point.

Following consideration of all three stages, a review panel will, with reference to the published criteria, agree on the nominees who will be awarded Fellowships.

How will applications be reviewed?

Stage 1 is a screening stage. At Stage 1, applications will be long-listed according to their eligibility and the extent to which they fulfil the indicators outlined (see appendix).

The written applications and videos submitted at Stage 2 will be reviewed by a panel including student representative(s), and national and international experts. The same panel of reviewers will review both an applicant's written submission and video.

At Stage 3, project ideas will be reviewed, and interviews conducted, by a panel including student representative(s) and international experts who will also take into account each applicant's Stage 1 and Stage 2 submissions.

Following consideration of all three stages, the review panel will, with reference to the published criteria, agree on the nominees who will be awarded Fellowships.

The full review process for each stage will be published as each stage is initiated.

What are the selection criteria?

The review of applications will consider their overall clarity and quality and also the extent to which they evidence the following criteria:

- significant experience and excellence in teaching practice
- a track record of T&L scholarship and leadership towards T&L enhancement within the discipline, institutionally, or across the higher education sector
- positive impact, effectiveness, sustained engagement, articulated achievements and high-quality outputs in terms of T&L enhancement
- significant experience of collaboration and successful management of T&L projects within and between departments and institutions, and a track record of delivering on projects within specified timeframes and agreed budgetary parameters

- a comprehensive knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the broader higher education landscape including national T&L policies and priorities
- an ongoing and identifiable commitment to student success and student engagement
- identifiable and substantial commitment to, and experience of, capacity building and continuing professional development with colleagues institutionally and nationally
- significant professional motivation and the commitment to work with integrity in an insightful, empathetic, open-minded manner
- the ability and willingness to balance professional individual interests with the necessity to deliver team requirements in alignment with national priorities and in a facilitative, collaborative, inclusive and reflective manner
- the capacity and willingness to re-imagine, to transfer learning and to adapt
- exceptional written and oral communication skills.

Specific review criteria for each stage of the application process will be published on the Fellowships webpage as each stage is initiated.

Key dates

Thursday, 23 January 2020:	Information webinar
Thursday, 27 February 2020 (12pm):	Closing date for the Stage 1 of the application process
Tuesday, 10 March 2020:	Longlisted applicants for Stage 2 notified
Tuesday, 7 April 2020 (12pm):	Closing date for Stage 2 of the application process
Thursday, 30 April 2020:	Shortlisted applicants for Stage 3 notified
Monday, 25 May 2020 (12pm):	Closing date for Stage 3 of the application process
Week of 1 June 2020:	Interviews for Stage 3 of the application process
Tuesday, 9 June 2020:	Fellowship awardees announced
Week of 21 June 2020:	Meeting of inaugural Fellows
1 July 2020–31 Dec 2021:	Fellowships completed

Further information

Detailed information about the application process and the review criteria for each stage of the process will be accessible on the Fellowships webpage at www.teachingandlearning.ie/fellowships.

A FAQ section will also be available on the Fellowships webpage. If your query about the Fellowships is not answered in this call or in the FAQs please email it to Fellowships@teachingandlearning.ie. The FAQ section of the webpage will be continually updated.

A webinar about the Fellowships will be held on 23 January 2020. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the Fellowships webpage. Further webinars and/or information sessions may also be organised during the selection process.

Appendix

Indicators to be fulfilled at Stage 1:

- Doctoral qualification or equivalent (required)
- ≥ 10 years working in Irish higher education (required)
- Qualification related to teaching and learning/education
- Achievement of an institutional recognition or national teaching/discipline award – individual or team
- ≥ 10 peer reviewed publications (author or co-author) including five that could be classified under the broad headings of teaching and learning in higher education or scholarship of teaching and learning
- Position of academic leadership or leadership in teaching and learning at institutional and/or national level
- Contribution to teaching and learning institutionally/nationally/internationally e.g. membership of committees, steering groups, working groups, advisory groups, expert groups, professional/discipline network
- Provision of professional development opportunity for colleagues at institutional/national/international level e.g. workshop, seminars, symposia, conferences
- Collaboration with and support of colleagues e.g. co-authoring, mentoring, reviewing
- Development of institutional/national/international teaching and learning resources e.g. handbooks, guides, toolkits, insights, literature reviews
- Project management, as PI or partner, of collaborative teaching and learning institutional/multi-institutional/national/international projects
- A demonstrable commitment to meaningful student engagement and partnership

Please note:

It is anticipated that applicants will fulfil the majority, but not necessarily all, of the indicators.

It is recognised that applicants may fulfil some indicators more extensively than others.

A list of evidence of the extent to which indicators are fulfilled will be requested at Stage 1 of the selection process. If an applicant progresses as far as Stage 3 of the selection process, the links to/copies of the evidence listed in Stage 1 of the process will also be required.

Further information on the above indicators and the Stage 1 application process is available at www.teachingandlearning.ie/fellowships.



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