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Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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NUTA

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
TEACHING AWARDS



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS (NUTA)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2024



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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2024

1. PREAMBLE

Following collaborations between the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), Council on Higher Education (CHE), and Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA), concerted efforts were made to elevate university teaching awards, with the aim of complementing the National Research Foundation (NRF) research awards', including that 'the name of the awards may have to be reconsidered to give the awards greater prominence' (CHE, 2020). The name change to the 'National University Teaching Awards' (NUTA), omitting the reference to teaching excellence awards, was therefore intentional. There is, however, agreement that the existing initiatives provide a robust platform for developing an adequately resourced, prestigious national university teaching awards programme. As such, the Minister of Higher Education and Training or its nominee will be its patron and will host the award ceremony annually.

2. AIMS OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS

The aims of the NUTA Awards incorporate the aims of the CHE/HELTASA Awards (2019), which are to:

- Recognise innovative teaching and learning in higher education at a national level.
- Generate a cadre of academics who can provide inspiration and leadership in teaching and learning in their disciplines across and beyond the institution.
- Celebrate the unique contextual responsiveness of academics that led to their growth and transformed practice as university teachers.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Academics and teaching and learning specialists at all South African public higher education institutions are eligible to participate in the awards.

3.2 Applications can be from individuals or a teaching collaboration team. A teaching team is a group of two or more academics or teaching and learning specialists collaborating over a sustained period to develop and deliver a module, course, programme or project (such as renewing a module/programme). The portfolio should indicate the role played by each team member.





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- 3.3** Applicants do not necessarily have to be recipients of institutional awards but must be endorsed by the institution.
- 3.4** Recipients of commendations may re-apply after two years of receiving the commendation.

4. CRITERIA

The application selection criteria are cognisant of the inherent inequalities characterising higher education institutions nationally. As such, three categories of awards are instituted: beginner teachers (in their first five years of teaching), experienced teachers (who have contributed over a lifetime/shown leadership in discipline-specific education), and a collaboration of academics and/or teaching and learning specialists who have shown innovation in teaching and learning. Both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching will be recognised.

- 4.1** Applicants are invited to submit portfolios containing a reflective analytical narrative, accompanied by relevant substantiating documentation of evidence. The portfolios will be evaluated on four criteria: reflection on students, reflection on context, reflection on knowledge and reflection on professional growth.
- 4.2** Assertions and claims made in the reflective narrative must be substantiated by evidence. This could be in the form of selected appendices. It is advisable that the portfolio submitted spans several years of teaching together with current evidence.
- 4.3** Evidence of outstanding teaching could include but is not restricted to the following:
- Information about the applicant and their teaching context (position in the institution, part-/full-time, discipline taught, size of classes, teaching context, e.g. main/satellite campus, areas of key challenge) and broad social context.
 - Peer review of teaching (feedback)
 - Student feedback
 - Student retention rates
 - Student success data
 - Student involvement beyond the classroom
 - Evidence includes brief extracts from study guides, multimedia, online materials, innovative





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student assessment, and photographs.

4.4 The evidence should demonstrate how the applicant's teaching stands out from other good teachers/teaching and learning specialists in promoting student learning and contributing to education for social justice. Evidence of the applicant's involvement with teaching and learning that has a broader impact within the university and beyond could include, but is not restricted to the following:

- Papers presented on teaching and learning at conferences
- Articles or other publications on teaching and learning (citations only or abstracts at the most)
- Membership of professional associations to which the applicant is a significant contributor based on evidence of conference attendance, papers presented, review activities, membership of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) or the executive
- Moderation of examinations and examination of dissertations/theses
- Membership of university committees and national or international committees supported by evidence of the applicant's contribution
- List of formal and non-formal continuing professional development the applicant has undertaken
- List of students or staff mentored or supervised
- List of awards received (where relevant)
- Contributions to addressing social issues.

In addition to the information provided above, applicants should refer to the [evaluation rubric](#) for detailed information on the criteria used for adjudication.

5. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

5.1 The NUTA [call for applications](#) will be sent to all public universities and made available on the DHET, CHE, HELTASA, USAF, and SAUT websites.

5.2 The university identifies and nominates a **maximum of four candidates** or teaching teams through transparent and inclusive processes. This will require universities to publicise and

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prioritise the NUTA within the institutional environment.

- 5.3 Each candidate or teaching team is expected to submit a portfolio of evidence which meets specific NUTA criteria and relevant rubrics.
- 5.4 Candidates should enquire within their institutions about the support available for preparing portfolios. If a university needs additional support for mentoring institutional academic development staff who provide support to academics, such requests should be sent to the Chair of the NCC within a week after the call has been received.
- 5.5 An adjudication panel will evaluate candidates' portfolios according to the [set criteria](#).
- 5.6 Each participant is responsible for ensuring that their application is successfully submitted [online](#). No email submissions will be accepted.
- 5.7 The due date for submission of portfolios is 30 June 2024. Communication will be sent to all participants to indicate the outcome of their submissions by 23 August 2024.
- 5.8 All shortlisted applicants will make a short presentation to the adjudication panel. The interviews will be in the second week of September 2024. Final communication to all participants at this stage of the application process will be sent out after 30 September 2024.
- 5.9 The adjudication panel will communicate the outcomes to all applicants at different intervals of the adjudication process.

6. THE APPLICATION FORMAT

- 6.1 All applications must be accompanied by the [nomination form](#) completed and endorsed (signed) by the relevant institutional authority.
- 6.2 The following personal information must be provided:
 - A photograph and brief curriculum vitae (2 pages). The curriculum vitae should emphasise the applicant's teaching and professional growth in higher education.
 - A team application should include all participants' names, photographs and abbreviated curriculum vitae (2 pages each). The curriculum vitae of each person should emphasise their teaching and professional growth in higher education. The application should indicate the team leader/contact person and provide their contact details.





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6.3 NB: Guidelines on file types and sizes for uploads:

- Acceptable file types: pdf, doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, png, gif
- Maximum file upload size: 10 MB
- To upload a video, share a link to the video. Do not upload the video directly to the website. A link to YouTube, a Google Drive folder or similar would be more efficient.

6.4 The portfolio comprises two parts:

Firstly, a [reflective narrative](#) about the teaching and learning of the nominee or nominees (what they do and why) should be submitted. The narrative should address the four criteria on reflection, i.e. reflection on students, reflection on content, reflection on knowledge and reflection on professional growth. The content can be structured in any way the applicant prefers and in a pdf or multimedia format. The total reflective narrative should be no longer than 10,000 words (12 font, 1.5 line spacing).

Secondly, the portfolio should include evidence appendices to substantiate the reflective narrative's claims. Appendices should be no more than 10 pages of evidence, which may be in different e-formats and/or two 3-minute audio or video recordings (see guidelines on file types and sizes for uploads on page 7). Appendices should only include excerpts pertinent to statements in the reflective narrative. Appendices should be selectively included, and all appendices must be directly referred to/hyperlinked in the narrative. **All appendices must be assessed for off-campus accessibility and functionality.**

The portfolio should be well-planned and easily navigable, with specific sections well-demarcated to align the narrative with the appropriate appendices.

7. HOW TO APPLY ONLINE

Steps to apply online:

- Navigate to the NUTA application form: <https://sauniversityteachers.org.za/nuta-register/>
- Register to access the form
- Prepare your submission and save it online until you are ready to officially submit your application (before 30 June 2024).



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If you have any technical questions or difficulty with the online submission platform (accessing or uploading documents on the website), please contact nuta_support@pomegranite.co.za for assistance.

8. ADJUDICATION PANEL

For a list of adjudication panel members, refer to *Addendum A*.

9. THE AWARD

Up to five awards may be made, and awardees will receive a monetary prize of R50 000.00. In addition to the monetary awards, the committee may recognise selected applicants with “commendations”. The award winners and those receiving commendations will receive their certificates at the NUTA Gala event on a date to be confirmed. The award winners will be expected to make short presentations on their work at the event. Winners’ portfolios will be available on the NUTA website as a resource for future applicants.





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Addendum A: Adjudication Panel Members

NAME AND SURNAME	AFFILIATION
Dr Rejoice Nsibandé	Chair (University of Pretoria)
Dr Noluthando Toni	Co-Chair (Nelson Mandela University, USAf - TLSG)
Prof Lizette De Jager	HELTASA Representative (CPUT)
Dr Rosaline Govender	HELTASA Representative (DUT)
Prof Fayth Ruffin	Previous Awardee (UKZN)
Dr Bongwe Hobololo	CHE Representative
Ms Fundiswa Kanise	CHE Representative
Dr Karin Cattell-Holden	Stellenbosch University
Dr Moeketsi Mosia	Sol Plaatje University
Prof Allucia Shokane	University of Zululand
Ms Anthea Adams	Rhodes University
Ms Michelle Bucher	Universities South Africa representative
Ms Mandisa Cakwe	Department of Higher Education and Training representative
Mr Lukhanyo Daweti	Student Representative (SAUS)