National Teaching Fellowship Scheme/ Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence

Briefing for potential applicants, October 2019

Overview of this briefing

- The national background and context
- What NTFS and CATE are about
- Details of the application process and support available
a) NTFS
b) CATE
- Building a narrative
- Practicalities
- Key actions and key dates

National background

- The National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS) has run since 2000
- The Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE) has run since 2016
- Both are administered by the Higher Education Academy (now part of Advance HE) which
- Collates applications
- Appoints pairs of reviewers (one discipline-specific, one generalist)
- Feeds back to applicants
- Each UK HEI can nominate up to three individuals per year for NTFS and one team for CATE

What are they about?

• Both NTFS and CATE recognise, reward and celebrate individuals and

teams who have had an outstanding impact on student learning, on the

HE teaching profession and more widely.

Successful applications evidence influence, impact and leadership. Many successful applications involve students/ participants in active consultative/representative roles.

However, it is not only about your university teaching: work involving public engagement, outreach, influencing industry, voluntary sector bodies, practice and/or policy is equally relevant.

Why apply?

- Internal recognition – being nominated by your institution is in itself a marker of esteem

If awarded, an NTF or CATE

- Is a mark of quality, as only 55 NTFs and up to 3 CATEs are awarded annually from hundreds of nominations
- Confers wider recognition in HE in the UK and internationally in relation to excellence in teaching/supporting learning
- Gives access to a national community of like-minded professionals who are passionate about teaching
- Opens doors – past NTFs have used the award as a springboard to progress their careers

Constructing an NTFS application

3 equally weighted criteria

1. **Individual excellence**

Evidence of enhancing and transforming the student learning experience, according to what is possible in the nominee's role and level

2. **Raising the profile of excellence**

Evidence of supporting colleagues and influencing support for student learning; demonstrating impact and engagement beyond the nominee's immediate academic or professional role

3. **Developing excellence**

Evidence of the nominee's commitment to his/her ongoing professional development in teaching and learning and/or learning support

Some more detail

Application in 3 parts

- Individual claim, up to 1,500 words for **each** of the 3 criteria

- Institutional support statement, signed by DVC Education (1,000 words)

- Nomination form (350 words): contextual statement, personal profile, two 20-word quotes

+ various smaller items

Full details from this link

https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2019-10/NTFS%202020%20-%20Guidance%20for%20institutions%20and%20nominees.pdf

Constructing a CATE application

2 criteria

Criterion 1: Excellence in the team's collaborative approach

Evidence of excellence in the team's approach to working collaboratively, commensurate with their context and the opportunities afforded by it

Criterion 2: Excellence in the impact of collaborative working

Evidence of the team having a demonstrable impact on teaching and learning beyond their immediate academic or professional area

Full details from this link

https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/awards/teaching-excellence-awards/collaborative-award-for-teaching-excellence

'Golden narrative threads': NTFS and CATE

'What, so what, now what?'

- What are your beliefs and values and how do they inform your work?

My/our underpinning philosophy is….

- 'What makes you special and your work cutting-edge?

I /we see my/our role as….

- How do you know you have made a difference?

I/we create opportunities for my learners to…. and see that they can, through……

- How do you disseminate your work and influence others?

Enabling my colleagues and xxxxx to …..

- What do you do to develop your own practice?

And I/we want to do even better so I/we……

Building a narrative

- Gather evidence to map against each area of your claim: identify strengths and gaps

- Evidence may go back some years and be drawn from a range of sources (e.g. within and beyond HE) but should clearly include your current practice in teaching and/or supporting learning and/or pedagogic leadership and/or strategic influence

- Structure your narrative so that your claim is coherent and clear

- Know your discipline: is there a pedagogy of T&L in your subject? (I can offer guidance here)

Other considerations

- Constructing a claim is time-consuming and both NTFS and CATE are extremely competitive
- Think carefully about people who can affirm your claim
- Identify one or more people outside your discipline who can act as critical friends (I can be one of them!). Could a non-specialist make sense of what you do?
- Criterion 3 is sometimes problematic. Which informal and formal activities could help you evidence commitment to CPD?
- CATE applications need to explain clearly the rationale for how the team was put together and how it functions
- Impact should be profound, but this could be on a specific group of individuals or more widely. However……..

Key actions and dates

- **By 29th November 2019:** a 2-page outline to F.M.Beaton@kent.ac.uk showing

- How you meet each of the criteria

- What evidence (materials, people) you will be able to provide to support a claim

- **By the end of the Autumn term**: University panel selects and notifies up to 3 NTFS nominees and 1 CATE team nominee

- **January-February 2020**: Drafting the claim. Peer review of drafts.

- **28th February 2020**: deadline for internal submission

- **11th March 2020**: deadline for submission to HEA