



The **Faculty of Education Undergraduate Teaching Award** is awarded to a member of the Faculty of Education who has displayed substantial, significant and sustained excellence, commitment and enthusiasm to the multifaceted aspects of teaching and learning at the undergraduate level resulting in an enhanced quality of learning by York students. The nominee may be a full-time tenured faculty member, tenure-stream, contract faculty, seconded, or adjunct faculty, and must have taught at York for at least one year.

The award recognizes teaching excellence and innovation. Other elements which are taken into consideration include scholarly, professional and teaching development and initiatives in undergraduate program and curriculum development, as well as student learning experiences. The nominator may be any member of the Faculty of Education, including undergraduate students, graduate students, regular or adjunct faculty, secondees or staff. Graduate students may not nominate their current supervisor.

The deadline for preliminary nominations is February 21, 2020. Final nomination packages are due by **March 19, 2020**. If you require any further information, please contact:

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Policy

The Faculty of Education Undergraduate Teaching Award is awarded to a member of the Faculty of Education who has displayed substantial, significant and sustained excellence, commitment and enthusiasm to the multifaceted aspects of teaching and learning at the undergraduate level at York. The recipient will receive a personalized certificate and \$500 toward their professional expense reimbursement (PER) account, or equivalent. The winner's name will also be engraved on a wall plaque, displayed in the Faculty. The Awardee may be invited to speak at the Faculty's Annual Research and Teaching Celebration.

In providing this award, the Faculty of Education recognizes, celebrates and congratulates the superior qualities that its many members provide to the advancement of teaching excellence and quality in undergraduate studies in Education at York University.

Preliminary nominations will be received by the Recording Secretary of the Research and Awards Committee by February 21, 2020 with full nominations due by March 19, 2020. A letter from the nominator detailing the excellent accomplishments of the nominee should accompany the nomination package, which includes extensive documentary evidence.



The Faculty of Education Research and Awards Committee will adjudicate the nominations, and may recommend to the Dean that not more than two members be so honoured with a Faculty of Education Undergraduate Teaching Award each year.

Guidelines

Teaching, within the undergraduate context of the Faculty of Education, encompasses all aspects of the academic enterprise at the undergraduate level. Nominations for this award should be based on documentary evidence which supports the nominee's teaching excellence and commitment to the mission of the Faculty of Education. The criteria for the award are described in general terms, but the selection committee will take into account the variety which arises from differences in style, content, and practices among educators. Areas of excellence for which a nominee would be considered for the award include, but are not necessarily limited to, teaching excellence and innovation, initiatives in undergraduate program and curricula development, mentorship and professional, scholarly, research and teaching development of undergraduate students. Other considerations may be the student learning experience and the impact of a nominee's teaching beyond the classroom and/or public intellectualism.

- Teaching excellence, innovation and contributions to the student learning experience will be a vital criterion for the award. Excellence in classroom teaching may be demonstrated by such indices as high levels of learning and high student satisfaction, including fostering the development of critical thinking and intellectual growth; inspiring deep and sustained student learning; extending curricular boundaries by incorporating current and emerging research; and providing opportunities for undergraduate students to be involved in research projects, among others. Documentation of excellence should include how the nominees' achievements in this area are exceptional and how the judgment of excellence in supervision has been reached by the nominator.
- Initiatives in undergraduate program and curricula development may include the development of new methodologies and/or use of technology to enhance student learning; development of pedagogical approaches that provide opportunities for full participation of students with disabilities; development of an especially innovative course; or development of materials such as films, textbooks, computer programs, and any other materials that enhance the quality of undergraduate teaching. The nominee may have been the prime public mover, or someone working quietly but effectively in the background. Initiatives which recruit outstanding undergraduate students may also promote and enhance undergraduate program development.
- Scholarly, professional and teaching development of undergraduate students may take the form of development and/or teaching workshops, courses or programs which help colleagues or graduate student teaching assistants to become more effective teachers and may be either discipline-specific or general. It may



also include excellence in mentoring colleagues to enrich teaching practices or supporting the development of teaching skills and practices of undergraduate or graduate students or teaching assistants.

- Commitment to the scholarly development of undergraduate students may be demonstrated by addressing pedagogical issues through conferences, seminars, and/or workshops aimed at developing personal teaching practices and the teaching practices of others.
- Nominees are encouraged to review the award criteria for the [President's University Wide Teaching Award](#) for further examples of characteristics of an outstanding teacher.

Documentation

The nominator is expected to provide all necessary documentation to support the candidate for the award. Documentation must include the following.**

1. A statement of teaching/learning philosophy and practice from the nominee (may include references to course evaluations) (approx. 1000 words)
2. A letter of nomination from the nominator
3. At least one course syllabus
4. Five letters of support from current students, alumni (from all areas of the nominee's teaching), teaching assistants (if applicable), and/or faculty colleagues who are familiar with the individual's teaching activities. Letters must be solicited by the nominator and not the nominee. These letters should address the criteria for the award outlined above.

** Teaching evaluations may be consulted by members of RAC (regular in-course assessment instruments or information collected expressly for nomination)

Adjudication

The Faculty of Education Undergraduate Teaching Award is adjudicated by the Faculty of Education Research and Awards Committee.