Brookes Teaching Excellence Fellowships

Application process 2017

These awards for excellence are intended to recognise and foster outstanding performance in teaching. ‘Teaching’ covers a broad range of teaching activities, including learning support, dissertation supervision and assessment. Excellence here is understood to be about influence and inspiration in learning and teaching, underpinned by a scholarly and reflective approach to practice.

All colleagues whose roles involve teaching and/or learning support are eligible to apply for a Brookes Teaching Excellence Fellowship, Brookes Associate Teaching Excellence Fellowship or a Brookes Team Teaching Excellence Fellowship.

Please note that applications will be judged on two overarching criteria:

1. Evidence of excellence in teaching and/or learning support;
2. How you plan to develop your teaching excellence.

Applicants will need to make a case as to how they meet these two criteria, in no more 4000 words (with a proposed professional development plan).

Brookes Teaching Excellence Fellowship and Associate Teaching Excellence Fellowship

All colleagues employed at Brookes whose roles involve teaching and/or learning support are eligible to apply for a Brookes Teaching Excellence Fellowship, either as an individual or in a pair. Applications should demonstrate “evidence of excellence” and this should particularly focus on the following four core criteria:

1. Influencing and inspiring students’ learning
2. Influencing and inspiring colleagues’ practices
3. Innovation and development of practice
4. Personal reflection on your developing practice

For Brookes Associate Teaching Excellence Fellowships, which is a category to encourage applications from those who are relatively new to higher education (normally less than six years in a teaching or learning support role), you may find it more difficult to evidence criteria 2 – influencing and inspiring colleagues’ practice. In this case, you can write about how you plan to influence colleagues practice through your existing teaching and your future development plans.
Applications are made initially by submitting a written claim for excellence and a proposal indicating how your development fund will be spent to further develop that excellence. Shortlisted applicants normally attend a selection interview. Successful applicants receive access to a development fund of £1,000 spread over 2 years to fund any appropriate professional development of your teaching excellence. In future years, you will also be able to apply for a Teaching Innovation Award to fund a project related to your teaching. You will also receive support and mentoring to help develop your excellence claim towards a possible nomination by the university for a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship.

Brookes Team Teaching Excellence Fellowships

Teams of colleagues who lead established programmes of study or learning development are eligible to apply for a Brookes Team Teaching Excellence Fellowship award.

Applications should demonstrate “evidence of excellence” against the following four criteria:

1. Influencing and inspiring students’ learning
2. Influencing and inspiring colleagues practices
3. Innovation and development of team practices
4. Team reflection on your effectiveness

Applications are made initially by submitting a written claim for excellence and a draft proposal indicating how development money will be spent to further that excellence. Shortlisted applicants normally attend a team selection interview. Teams will have access to a budget of £2,000 over 2 years to fund any appropriate professional development. In future years, you or your team will be able to apply for a Teaching Innovation Award to fund a project related to your teaching. You will also receive support and mentoring to help develop your excellence claim towards a possible nomination by the university for a prestigious National Teaching Fellowship (individual) or national Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (team).

The Application

A written application, which can contain web links or video links, of up to 4000 words. It is suggested that the application contains six sections:

1. An introduction which outlines your teaching context
2. A narrative and evidence of how you are influencing and inspiring students’ learning
3. A narrative and evidence of how you are influencing and inspiring colleagues practices (or plan to for associate fellows applicants)
4. A narrative and evidence of how you are innovative and development of team practices
5. Reflection on your effectiveness / conclusion
6. Planned professional development activities (with costings.) NB: you can also apply for additional staff development funding in your faculty or directorate linked to this process.
The selection procedure

An internal panel including National Teaching Fellows or Brookes Teaching Fellows or Principal Lecturers (Student Experience) considers all applications. Those who are shortlisted are invited to a selection interview, chaired by the PVC (Student Experience). The purpose of the interview is for the panel to clarify aspects of your excellence claim and for the panel to get a better sense of you and your teaching excellence.

Support for applicants

If you are interested in applying, get in touch with one of the existing Brookes Fellows (see the list on the Fellowships pages) for an initial discussion; seek support from a PL (Student Experience) in your Faculty; or contact OCSLD. You are strongly advised to share a draft of your application with colleagues for formative feedback. Support events for your application will be organised by OCSLD.

Claim for excellence: what should be in your application?

Your application is a claim for your excellence in learning and teaching, supported with evidence from a variety of sources. The following notes should be taken as guidance not prescription. If you would like to discuss your initial thoughts, please contact any of the current Brookes Teaching Fellows, or one of the PLs (Student Experience) in your Faculty.

One of the overarching criteria is “evidence of excellence”, for individual or pairs of applicants this should particularly focus on the core criteria for the relevant type of fellowship (see earlier in this document).

Your claim should make reference to the full dimensions of the UK Professional Standards Framework (see the Higher Education Academy website), and you are advised to include specific reference to some of the following:

- Innovation in the design and delivery of learning activities and materials
- The provision of effective and sympathetic guidance, supervision and assessment of students that enables student advancement at all levels
- A reflective approach to teaching and the support of learning in order to sustain self-development and team development
- The ability to arouse curiosity and to stimulate independent learning and the development of critical thought in students
- A recognised commitment to the scholarship of learning and teaching in your discipline
- Participation in professional networks and research related to learning and teaching
- Recognition of the value of student diversity and inclusive practices
- The ability to share and promote good practice, through publications, conferences or networks, workshops, away days or other means
Your claim may also be supported by evidence of:

- Further qualifications in relevant aspects of education, including any category of Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy
- Membership of learning and teaching networks and associations
- Active involvement with the Higher Education Academy and/or contributions to external teaching-related events
- Previous pedagogic research
- Guidance for staff teaching in your discipline or using your methods
- External reputation for learning and teaching in HE

Sources for such evidence might include:

- A personal statement on your philosophy of teaching
- Personal reflection on teaching practices and innovations
- Student feedback
- Testimonials from colleagues, managers or students
- Reports from external examiners or other external assessors,
- Reports of peer enhancement of teaching and learning

For staff engaged in learning support roles it is acknowledged that it may not necessarily be possible to demonstrate working closely with students, while still making a significant contribution to their learning experiences. This will be taken into account when evaluating applications.

**Final Note**

The Brookes Teaching Excellence Fellowship scheme is co-ordinated by OCSLD and, if successful, you will be encouraged to work towards Senior Fellowship of the HEA if you do not already have this recognition.

Your completed application must be submitted by email to Beverley Blackman, bblackman@brookes.ac.uk in the PVC’s office, before **noon on Thursday, 25 May 2017**.