

The National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS)

and

Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE)

NTFS and CATE are annual competitions run by AdvanceHE to identify, recognise and celebrate the UK’s most outstanding individuals and teams having an impact on student outcomes, student experience and the Higher Education sector.

# National Teaching Fellowship Scheme (NTFS)

National Teaching Fellowship celebrates outstanding individual impact. It celebrates and recognises individuals who have made an outstanding impact on student outcomes and the teaching profession in higher education. The award has been running since 2000 and there are now over 860 National Teaching Fellows, with up to 55 individuals receiving the award each year. On gaining the award, fellows play an ongoing role in enhancing teaching and learning within their institution, the HE sector and further afield.

A Higher Education Institution can nominate up to three individuals each year. Scotland has only been able to nominate since 2018 and to date UoE has had three successful nominations, Catriona Bell, Heather McQueen and Michael Seery.

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| **Benefits to individuals** | **Benefits to institutions** |
| Achieving a National Teaching Fellowship is widely recognised in higher education within the UK as well as internationally as mark of high quality | Offers an extension to university wide individual recognition schemes, as a means to raise the status of teaching and instil in the pride in the profession and student outcomes |
| The award can help ‘open doors’ to new academic or career opportunities | Showcases the institution’s support of individual teaching excellence and the impact this has on student outcomes. |
| Award winners join a national community of like-minded professionals who are passionate about teaching excellence | Enables staff to cross boundaries, collaborating with colleagues in other disciplines and areas of work, across institutions nationally and internationally |

Each NTFS claim is reviewed by three reviewers against the following criteria before going to a final decision panel:

NTFS Criterion 1*: Individual excellence*

Evidence of enhancing and transforming student outcomes and/or the teaching profession; demonstrating impact commensurate with the individual’s context and the opportunities afforded by it.

NTFS Criterion 2: *Raising the profile of excellence*

Evidence of supporting colleagues and influencing support for student learning and/or the teaching profession; demonstrating impact and engagement beyond the nominee’s immediate academic or professional role.

NTFS Criterion 3: *Developing excellence*

Show the nominee’s commitment to and impact of ongoing professional development with regard to teaching and learning and/or learning support.

Each section is up to 1,500 words

# Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE)

Celebrates outstanding collaborative impact. It recognises and rewards collaborative work that has had a demonstrable impact on teaching and learning. Introduced in 2016, the scheme highlights the key role of teamwork in higher education.

The scheme has been running in Scotland since 2018 and each HEI can nominate one team

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| **Benefits to teams** | **Benefits to institutions** |
| Provides teams with national recognition and profile of their collaborative work in learning and teaching within higher education. | Offers an extension to university wide team-based recognition schemes, as a means to raise the status of learning and teaching. |
| The award can help ‘open doors’ to new collaborative or career opportunities | Showcases the institution’s support of collaborative approaches to developing teaching excellence and the impact on learning and teaching |
| Join a national community of like-minded professionals who are passionate about collaborative approaches to teaching excellence | Enables staff to collaborate and network with colleagues across the disciplines, themes, institutions, nations and counties. |

*Benefits of NTFS/CATE – source: AdvanceHE*

It is worth noting that both schemes are open to university staff who support learning as well as those involved directly in teaching. National Teaching Fellows include Library Services staff, Learning Technologists and Academic Learning Developers, for example. For CATE, cross-institutional and/or multi-professional teams who have run a project specifically to improve learning, teaching or student engagement/experience can apply, as well as teams which include members/partners from outside the institution.

Each CATE claim is reviewed by three reviewers against the following criteria before going to a final decision panel:

CATE 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.

CATE Criterion 2: *Excellence in the impact of collaborative working*

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

The two criteria together should form no more than 3,500 words.

Reviewers will be looking for evidence of **reach, value** and **impact** to be demonstrated in the evidence

# Specific Benefits for University of Edinburgh

In addition to the general benefits proposed by AdvanceHE the reasons for UoE to participate in the two awards are:

* It is in line with our commitment to recognise and reward excellence in learning and teaching and provides us with another way to do this.
* For the nominated individuals, it may provide additional evidence for progression for the teaching track.
* Both schemes focus not only on outstanding practices, but on their reach and impact and therefore encourage the dissemination and sharing of outstanding practice and evidence for UoE as influencing the HE sector in learning and teaching.
* Participation in one of the schemes develops advocates/champions for learning and teaching and therefore also develops internal capacity for UoE in terms of availability of recognised sector experts to act in internal roles.
* As the UoE gains more NTFs and CATE winners, they could form a group with the potential to generate and drive creative and outstanding initiatives in learning and teaching.

# The University of Edinburgh Scheme for NTFS and CATE

The scheme will be run by the Institute for Academic Development on behalf of the university.

Each year the UoE can nominate up to three NTFS and one CATE nomination and it is desirable to make use of all these opportunities each year. In order to maximise the opportunities the scheme will operate a ‘pool’ of potential nominees on an ongoing basis. At any time there will be six NTFS potentials and two CATE teams working on their claims. Closer to the AdvanceHE deadline, nominations for that year will be selected from the pool on the basis of readiness/likelihood to succeed. When an individual or team is successful their slot becomes available for others and similarly, if the individual or team drops out or has not been able to complete a claim in two years, their slot will be made available. Many NTFs and CATE teams are not successful on the first try so non-success will not automatically disqualify nominees from a second attempt should they wish to try again.

# Further information

Information can be found here:

<https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/awards/teaching-excellence-awards/national-teaching-fellowship>

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