

**University Award for Outstanding Contribution to
Research-informed Teaching
2021**

Information and Guidance Notes for Applicants

What is the Research-informed Teaching Award (RiTA)?

This annual award seeks to recognise and celebrate academic staff who have made a **sustained and outstanding contribution to the promotion of research-informed teaching that has a direct impact on the student learning experience** at Loughborough University. The award is designed to foster pedagogic research across the institution and to reaffirm the University's commitment to recognise staff who demonstrate high levels of achievement in both research and teaching.

Who is eligible to apply?

You can apply for this award if you:

- Have at least **four years experience** as a Loughborough University academic, during which time you have engaged actively in both teaching and research
- Are judged by your School to have a **very strong track record in your teaching and research performance**, commensurate with your post
- Can demonstrate how your **research-informed teaching practice has impacted positively on the quality of the Loughborough student learning experience**
- Have gained the support of your School for your application to go forward to the University Selection Panel

How many Awards are made each year?

The University will award a maximum of four awards per academic year. This is an open, competitive process and as such there are no limits to the number of applications each School may make. **However, each application must be supported by the School and the statement of support from the Dean (or their nominee) which accompanies each application should indicate the ways in which it aligns with the School's strategic direction for teaching and learning.**

What is meant by Research-informed Teaching?

At Loughborough, for the purposes of this award, the concept of *research-informed teaching* is concerned with

1. The use made of an academic's subject-based primary research in their teaching and/or
2. The use made of an academic's pedagogic primary research to improve their student's learning.

What are the assessment criteria for a RiTA?

*You will need to provide evidence against **two** of the three criteria noted below. Each of the two criteria will carry equal weighting in all stages of the selection process. Examples should normally come from work covering the **last four years** and may include work with students other than those on Loughborough University programmes such as those in other sectors of education or those situated overseas.*

<p>CRITERION 1</p> <p><i>Expertise in curriculum design that fosters synergies between teaching and research and supports research-informed teaching</i></p>	<p>This may be evidenced by, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An evaluation of how strong interfaces between teaching and research are embedded in the design of specific modules/programmes,• Successful innovations in teaching practice that support students in developing their research-related knowledge/skills• An explanation of how teaching/learning approaches are used to benefit students by promoting an understanding of how discipline-specific knowledge is generated/contested• Examples of teaching/learning resources aimed at fostering knowledge and skills in students relevant to research-linked activities
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<p>CRITERION 2</p> <p><i>Expertise in pedagogical research, action research, evaluation and dissemination activities that enhance teaching and learning</i></p>	<p>This may be evidenced by, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of how review and evaluation activities and data have driven changes which benefit students and improve own practice • Use of findings from existing pedagogical research and action research projects to inform the approach to teaching in ways that impact positively on the quality of the student learning experience • Undertaking pedagogical research and action research projects (internally and/or externally funded) and using the results to enhance teaching and learning • Development of high quality, evidence-based resources to support the professional development of colleagues and thus benefit students • Dissemination activities to a wider audience within and/or beyond the University (seminars, workshops, case studies, conference papers, publications)
<p>CRITERION 3</p> <p><i>Expertise in the use of the learning experience to help develop students as researchers</i></p>	<p>This may be evidenced by, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative and effective examples of learning approaches within own teaching that develop the student as a researcher, with a supporting rationale • Successful examples of how students learn through the active research mode (e.g. students working as research communities, students preparing and/or presenting research papers) • Examples of promoting understanding of discipline-specific research cultures through inquiry-based learning

How does the application and selection process work?

To be considered for a University Research-informed Teaching Award

The individual will:

- Discuss a possible application with a member of the Senior Management Team (SMT) in their School, for example the Associate Dean (Teaching), who will provide an initial, informal sounding board as to whether they meet the eligibility requirements for the award.
- Write and submit an application electronically to the Dean of School or their nominee for supporting comments using the standard template (see separate Word document).
The total word length should be no more than 1500 words (excluding supporting comments).
- Submit the application including School supporting comments to the Centre for Academic Practice cap@lboro.ac.uk by **9am 3rd May 2021**.

The Centre for Academic Practice will:

- Compile the applications for the University Selection Panel to consider and take part in the selection panel.
- Inform applicants as to whether they have been granted the award (end of May 2021).
- Provide feedback to each unsuccessful applicant (end of May 2021).
- Invite award winners to the annual University Learning and Teaching Conference (Summer 2021).

The University will:

- Convene a University Selection Panel to consider the shortlisted applications. The panel will be chaired by the PVC (Teaching) and include representatives from across the Schools, the Centre for Academic Practice and the Students' Union. A maximum of four awards can be made each year.
- Successful applicants will have their award presented at the annual University Learning and Teaching conference.

What happens to successful candidates?

The successful award winners are allocated a university budget of £1000, to be used to progress their research-informed teaching. The Awards are usually presented at the University annual Learning and Teaching conference in the summer.

Successful candidates will be invited to liaise with a member of the Centre for Academic Practice to agree how best to disseminate further their work in support of research-informed teaching. The means of dissemination could include a lecture to colleagues, captured using ReView or a workshop demonstrating the application of the research. We would also ask for a brief summary (350 words) of their work and any resources the winner has in conjunction with the award that could be shared. However it is disseminated it should:

- ensure the widest possible recognition for Award recipients across the University.
- encourage other colleagues with a track record in research-informed teaching to consider submitting an application in a future round.

This will include the promotion of the award winners and their work through a dedicated page of the Centre for Academic Practice website.

Samantha Chester

Centre for Academic Practice
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