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The Australia Financial Review is proud to be hosting the fourth annual AFR Higher Education Awards on **Tuesday 27th August** at the Hilton Brisbane. Presented by **UniSuper** the Awards are an initiative to highlight at a national level the tremendous contribution that the Higher Education sector makes to Australian prosperity and quality of life.

The categories for 2019 are:

- **Community Engagement Award**
- **Education Technology Award**
- **Emerging Leader Award**
- **Employability Award**
- **Equity and Opportunity Award**
- **Facilities Innovation Award**
- **Industry Engagement Award – Sponsored by Deloitte**
- **International Education Award**
- **Learning Experience Award**
- **Lifetime Achievement Award – Sponsored by UniSuper**

Awards Overview

A shortlist of finalists for each of the other categories will be announced in *The Australian Financial Review* on **29 July 2019**. The winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award will also be announced in advance, on **19 August 2019**. Awards will then be presented to the winners of each category at the Awards Gala on **27 August 2019**. All winners will be profiled in *The Australian Financial Review*, with the potential also for further commentary and follow-up throughout the year.

Judging

We are assembling an independent judging panel composed of some of the most esteemed figures in Higher Education: former Vice Chancellors, former Chancellors, and experts from the worlds of international, online and private Higher Education. This distinguished group will meet in early July to review applications and select a shortlist of up to four finalists including an Award winner, for each category.

Our judging panel will look for evidence of innovation, impact, clear improvement in outcomes, value/efficiency and solid outcomes related to the sector's core educational mission. The most outstanding initiatives may not be the largest or most high-profile: the judges will take into account, wherever possible, the specific scale, resources, and challenges of the applying institution. We encourage Higher Education institutions of all sizes and types to make a case for the initiatives of which they are most proud.

Judging panel includes:

- Robert Bolton, Higher Education Editor, **The Australian Financial Review**
- Margeurite Evans-Galea, Executive Director, **Industry Mentoring Network in STEM**
- Malcolm Gillies AO, Former Vice-Chancellor, London Metropolitan University and former Deputy Vice Chancellor, **ANU**
- Stuart Hamilton AO – Former CEO, **Open Universities Australia**
- Alan Robson AO – Former Vice-Chancellor, **UWA**
- Jan Thomas, Vice-Chancellor, **Massey University, New Zealand**

Key Dates

Entries open: 1 April 2019

Entries close: 30 June 2019

Shortlist announced: 29 July 2019

Awards Gala: 27 August 2019

*Please read the guidelines below and the selection criteria for each award. When you are ready, click **APPLY NOW** from the bar on the right and select the category you wish to enter.*

The AFR Higher Education Awards are open to all institutions, public and private, offering AQF qualifications at associate degree level and above, and/or diplomas and advanced diplomas accredited in the Australian Higher Education sector.

All applications for the AFR Higher Education Awards must be made online via our application portal. In addition to contact details you will need to provide a title for your initiative/strategy, a 50-word summary of the initiative/strategy, and a 500-word entry addressing the specific selection criteria for the relevant award. Selection criteria for each award can be viewed [HERE](#). For all categories except the Lifetime Achievement Award, you will also need to enter the name of the head of your institution and tick the box indicating that they are aware of and have signed off on the entry.

You may also attach up to four A4 pages of supporting evidence (e.g., statistics, graphs, research or evaluation reports, photographs, press cuttings or testimonials) in PDF format, with relevant sections highlighted as need be. Please do not, however, rely on these supporting materials to make your case; they will not necessarily be considered unless your application is shortlisted. Please note that videos or PowerPoint presentations will NOT be accepted.

Applications will be judged on core achievements that have taken place in the period **1 January 2018 to 1 June 2019**. Naturally, projects that have had sufficient time to produce results and show real impact are more likely to be successful than projects still in their preliminary stages.

In categories 1-9, institutions may enter ONE application per category, with each application requiring sign-off by the head of the applying institution. Collaborative initiatives, projects or strategies can be entered, but the application must come from a single lead institution. Additional contributing HE institutions or external partners can be noted in the 'Institution name' field on the application form, and if your submission is shortlisted, we will give due credit to partners at the awards ceremony and in any media features or profiles.

In category 10, the Lifetime Achievement Award, anyone may submit a nomination/application. There is no limit per institution, and no sign-off from the head of the institution is required.

Once you have submitted your entry you will receive an email confirming your institution name, the category you have entered, and the title of the nominated strategy/initiative (or individual, in the case of the Lifetime Achievement Award). Please advise us if any of your contact details change once your application has been submitted.

The Australian Financial Review will announce a shortlist for all categories on 29th July. Our distinguished judges will then assess these nominations to determine a winner in each of the categories.

More Information

Please contact **Keith Barks** - Keith.Barks@informa.com.au - with any further questions about the Awards.

Awards Gala

The winners of the AFR Higher Education Awards will be announced and honoured at a sumptuous Gala Dinner on **27 August 2019**. The Gala will take place at the Hilton Hotel in Brisbane

The evening will commence with a welcome reception at 7pm, followed by dinner at 7:30 and the presentation of the AFR Higher Education Awards.

You can book **individual places or tables of 10** via the event website. Once you have booked your places you will receive a confirmation email that will include a link allowing you to submit your guests' details.

If you have any problems with your booking, please email info@informa.com.au

FAQs

How much does it cost to enter the awards?

Nothing – entry is free.

Who can enter?

These awards are open to all institutions, public and private, offering Australian Qualifications Framework qualifications at associate degree level and above, and/or diplomas and advanced diplomas accredited in the Higher Education sector. With the exception of the Lifetime Achievement Award, all entries must be signed off by the head of the applying institution.

Can we enter more than one category?

Institutions may enter as many categories as they wish, but must complete a separate submission for each category.

Can we submit more than one entry in a single category?

Only one entry per institution per category is allowed in most categories, which is why we require sign-off by the head of the relevant institution. The exception to this is the Lifetime Achievement award, for which we will accept nominations/applications from anyone without the need for institutional sign-off.

What period do these awards relate to?

Our judges will be judging applications based on core achievements that have taken place in the period 1 January 2018 – 30 June 2019. Naturally, projects that have had sufficient time to produce results and show real impact are more likely to be successful than projects still in their preliminary stages.

How will I know that my submission has been received?

Once you have submitted your entry you will receive an email confirming your institution name, the title of the nominated strategy or initiative, and the category you have entered. This email will also contain a unique ID number that will be used in all future correspondence relating to your entry.

Are collaborative entries accepted?

Yes, but the application should come from a single lead institution. You can name any other contributing HE institutions or external partners in the 'Institution name' field on the application form, and if your submission is shortlisted, we will give due credit to partners at the awards ceremony and in any media features or profiles.

When is the closing date for entries?

Applications close at midnight on **30 June 2019**

How do I submit an entry?

Please read the entry guidelines [HERE](#) then click ENTER NOW and select the relevant category.

How are the entries judged?

An eminent panel of Higher Education experts will meet to review applications against the selection criteria and choose our winners. See [JUDGING PROCESS](#) and [JUDGING PANEL](#).

When are finalists announced?

A shortlist of finalists for each category will be announced in The Australian Financial Review on 29 July 2019.

When are winners announced?

The Lifetime Achievement Winner will be announced in The Australian Financial Review on 19th August. Announcement of all other winners will be made at the Awards Gala on 27 August at the Brisbane Hilton Hotel.

Can I re-enter the same initiative/strategy/project next year if I don't win this time?

Yes. Very promising initiatives may simply need slightly more time to be able to sufficiently demonstrate their full impact. We will happily consider repeat entries in future years, provided they show further evidence of positive outcomes.

How do I book tickets for the event?

You can book individual places or tables of 10 using our online booking system [HERE](#). Once you have booked your places you will receive a confirmation email that will include a link allowing you to submit your guests' details. If you have any problems with your booking, please email info@informa.com.au.

What is the dress code for the evening?

The Awards Gala is Black Tie.

What happens if I have purchased a ticket but I am unable to attend?

Tickets are non-refundable but can be transferred to a colleague. In the event of a change in attendee, please email the new attendee's details to info@informa.com.au as soon as possible.

Are under-18s allowed to attend the awards evening?

The venue's licence does not preclude under-18s from attending; however we do suggest that the event might not be appropriate for younger children.

Got a further question?

For queries relating to Awards categories, criteria, process or submissions, please contact keith.barks@informa.com.au

If your question relates to the Awards Gala, please contact info@informa.com.au

CATEGORIES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This Award aims to recognise strategies and initiatives that bring together students and external communities or community groups in a way that delivers significant and demonstrable benefits to both – and contributes meaningfully to the educational and social goals of the Higher Education sector.

For the purposes of this Award, “community” can be interpreted broadly. A target community may be defined by geographical parameters (local, regional, state, national or global), or by social, cultural, circumstantial or other parameters (e.g. indigenous Australians, asylum-seekers, the elderly, unemployed youth, etc.); or it may be a combination of the two. Alternatively, “community” could refer to the public at large. Engagement initiatives involving community groups and associations, educational institutions (e.g. schools and TAFEs), and not-for-profit and non-governmental organisations are also eligible for this Award.

Examples of eligible initiatives or strategies might include: volunteer programs, integrated service learning, internships/placements/practicum, community outreach and development initiatives, community organising, community research, knowledge exchange initiatives, community education, economic development programs, cooperative education initiatives, etc.

The principal criteria for assessing entries in this category are:

- **Demonstrated positive impact on the community** – To what extent has this initiative/strategy improved the lives or prospects of community members? What identified problem, opportunity or societal issue does it address? How many community members have benefited? Has community participation in the initiative increased since its inception?
- **Demonstrated positive impact on participating students** – To what extent has this initiative fostered civic values, enhanced learning, built valuable skills, or contributed to a new outlook amongst the participating students? How can you evidence this? Has student participation in the initiative increased since its inception? Do students play a significant role in designing and leading the initiative as well as delivering it?
- **Collaborative approach** – How, and by whom, was this initiative/strategy initiated? What role did the community play in identifying the challenge, determining goals and designing the program? What ongoing role do community members play in the initiative? Have you encountered and overcome any obstacles in the relationship? Can you demonstrate a positive impact on the culture, attitudes, behaviour or values of both parties? More broadly, how does your initiative contribute to a closer relationship between the Higher Education sector and the relevant community?
- **Innovation** – How is your initiative/strategy innovative in concept, objective, approach, design, delivery or content?
- **Institutional support** – How well does your initiative connect with your institution’s larger public engagement strategy, and has your institution demonstrated commitment to this initiative by supporting it either financially, in kind, or through policy and recognition of its value?

- **Value for investment** – How do the outcomes of your initiative for students and the community compare to the investment of resources, time and effort required to deliver and maintain it?
- **Sustainability and scalability** – How will the initiative find sufficient resources to continue running in the longer term? Are the relevant communities committed to sustaining the initiative into the future? Is your initiative scalable and potentially applicable to other relevant communities or other units/departments/institutions? Does it have the potential to significantly promote and elevate community engagement in the Higher Education sector as a whole?

Please be sure to address all criteria and provide as much evidence as possible on each. Please also clearly note the scope, scale, and timeframe of your initiative. You can attach up to four A4 pages of documentation in support of your entry. Testimonials from community partners evidencing the benefits derived from your initiative/strategy are welcomed where appropriate.

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

This award will be given to an individual, department or institution who has created, developed or deployed technology in an innovative way. The deployment could be institution-wide, in the classroom, the lecture theatre, on campus, or in the lab, and it can be for any platform or purpose.

The winner will be the entrant who shows demonstrable use of innovation in their deployment of technology, explains the purpose of the technology and the results to date. You may also try and identify and forecast the long-term impact of widespread use of the technology.

Technology still in the developmental phase still qualifies. It is though important that you emphasise the purpose of the development, what it is you are trying to achieve and showcase your results, albeit at trial, to date.

The principal criteria for assessing entries in this category are:

- **Innovation** – how is your technology initiative or strategy innovative in concept, objective, approach, design, delivery or content? Does it enable further innovation, for example in research, teaching or entrepreneurship?
- **Demonstrated Positive Impact** – To what extent has your technology successfully addressed an identified problem or challenge? What benefits has it delivered to students and/or staff in the short-term? On what scale is this impact, and how can you evidence it? Can you demonstrate increased usage, collaboration, impact, or other tangible outcomes? What further benefits do you anticipate in the coming decades?
- **Results** what outcomes have you seen as a direct result of deploying this technology? Is there a before and after scenario you can demonstrate? The outcomes can be financial, or they could be other measurable results such as increased take-up, greater efficiency, or improved test results.

Please be sure to address all criteria and provide as much evidence as possible on each. Please also clearly note the scope, scale, and timeframe of your initiative. You can attach up to four A4 pages of documentation in support of your entry.

EMERGING LEADER

This Award aims to recognise an individual employed in the Higher Education Sector who demonstrates a track record of transformational leadership be that in teaching, research, administration, policy or management.

To qualify for this category the nominee must be an Australian Permanent Residents and have been employed in the Higher Education sector for 15 years or fewer. There is no age limit to the candidates.

The successful recipient will provide clear evidence of improved outcomes and practices at an institutional, sectoral, state/territory, national or global level as a direct result of their leadership. They will also have embodied the sector's core values of reason, curiosity, innovation, humility, and passion for creating, transmitting and receiving knowledge; and have inspired those around them with their vision, ability and personal integrity

The winner will be chosen on the basis of verifiable evidence of their leadership achievements and the scope and scale of their positive effect on Higher Education policy and practices.

The principal criteria for assessing entries in this category are:

- **Leadership qualities** – Why do you think your candidate is worthy of this nomination? What leadership qualities do they possess that differentiates them from their peers and colleagues. How do these qualities manifest themselves?
- **Demonstrated positive Impact** – What demonstrable and measurable impact has your leader had in your institution and the wider community?
- **Leader as a role model** – Does your candidate possess attributes that aspire others to emulate? Can you demonstrate the high-regard and respect this nomination has achieved?

Please be sure to address all criteria and provide as much evidence as possible on each. Please also clearly note the scope, scale, and timeframe of your initiative. You can attach up to four A4 pages of documentation in support of your entry.

EMPLOYABILITY

This Award is for strategies or initiatives that have demonstrably enhanced student employment outcomes (i.e., resulted in a higher rate of relevant employment upon completion of a course). Initiatives focussed on improving the performance of students already in employment, or on improving the institution's ability to gather and interpret meaningful data around employment outcomes, are also eligible when such improvements can be compellingly evidenced.

Examples of eligible initiatives or strategies might include: work placements, networking opportunities, cooperative learning, work-orientated projects, service-learning, course/curriculum redesign, business and professional collaborations, initiatives to develop broader graduate attributes, initiatives to improve collection of employment data or employability methodology, etc.

The principal criteria for assessing entries in this category are:

- **Demonstrated positive impact** – What demonstrable and measurable impact has your initiative had on employment rates and/or workplace performance within its target community? Can you show a clear trend of improved outcomes in the period since the initiative began? Has the initiative grown and/or attracted new participants since its inception? Can you demonstrate a further impact on the culture, attitudes, behaviour, feedback or values of employers or students?
- **Innovation** – how is your initiative innovative in concept, objective, approach, design, delivery or content?
- **Institutional support** – how well does your initiative connect with your institution's larger strategy around employability, and has your institution demonstrated commitment to this initiative by supporting it either financially, in kind, or through policy and recognition of its value?
- **Value for investment** – how do the outcomes of your initiative compare to the investment of resources, time and effort required to deliver and maintain it? In addition to positive results, does the initiative deliver any efficiency or productivity gains on previous practices?
- **Sustainability and scalability** – how sustainable is your initiative over the longer term? Is your initiative scalable and potentially applicable to other units/departments/institutions? Does it have the potential to significantly elevate practices and outcomes in the Higher Education sector as a whole?

Please be sure to address all criteria and provide as much evidence as possible on each. Please also clearly note the scope, scale, and timeframe of your initiative. You can attach up to four A4 pages of documentation in support of your entry.

EQUITY & OPPORTUNITY

This category is for strategies or initiatives that have significantly improved participation rates, engagement, educational outcomes, personal development opportunities, or employment opportunities of under-represented or non-traditional student groups.

Examples of eligible initiatives or strategies might include: innovative pathways, access programs, transition and retention strategies, pastoral care initiatives, personal development programs, and employability initiatives, all aimed at under-represented or non-traditional student groups.

The principal criteria for assessing entries in this category are:

- **Demonstrated positive impact** – To what extent, and on what scale, has your initiative increased participation and retention rates, educational outcomes, or employment opportunities within its target non-traditional or disadvantaged community? To what extent has it successfully addressed an identified problem or challenge, and on what scale? Can you show a clear trend of improved outcomes in the period since the initiative began? Has the initiative grown and/or attracted new participants since its inception? Can you demonstrate a further impact on the culture, attitudes, behaviour or values of students, staff, employers or the institution? More broadly, how does your initiative contribute to a more equitable society?
- **Innovation** – how is your initiative innovative in concept, objective, approach, design, delivery or content?
- **Institutional support** – how well does your initiative connect with your institution’s larger equity and opportunity strategy, and has your institution demonstrated commitment to this initiative by supporting it either financially, in kind, or through policy and recognition of its value?
- **Value for investment** – how do the outcomes of your initiative compare to the investment of resources, time and effort required to deliver and maintain it? In addition to positive results, does the initiative deliver any efficiency or productivity gains on previous practices?
- **Sustainability and scalability** – how sustainable is your initiative over the longer term? Is your initiative scalable and potentially applicable to other units/departments/institutions? Does it have the potential to significantly elevate practices and outcomes in the Higher Education sector as a whole?

Please be sure to address all criteria and provide as much evidence as possible on each. Please also clearly note the scope, scale, and timeframe of your initiative. You can attach up to four A4 pages of documentation in support of your entry.

FACILITIES INNOVATION

This Award is for innovative capital/facilities projects or strategies that represent exceptional value for investment and have demonstrably enhanced the student and/or staff experience on campus.

This category encompasses all aspects of the built environment, including teaching and lecture spaces, labs, libraries, accommodation, leisure spaces, catering, enterprise, ICT installations and overall campus design. Eligible initiatives need not only be new builds; refurbishments, redevelopments, and alternative facilities strategies including innovative rental or shared facilities arrangements, are all eligible.

The judging panel is looking for innovation and value throughout the delivery chain, from master plan, design and financing through to delivery, maintenance and operation.

The principal criteria for assessing entries in this category are:

- **Innovation** – how is your initiative or strategy innovative in concept, objective, approach, design, delivery or content? Consider each step of the delivery chain, including financing and operations management. Does it enable further innovation, for example in research, teaching or entrepreneurship?
- **Demonstrated positive impact** – To what extent has your project successfully addressed an identified problem or challenge? What benefits has it delivered to students and/or staff in the short-term? On what scale is this impact, and how can you evidence it? Can you demonstrate increased usage, collaboration, safety, or other tangible outcomes? What further benefits do you anticipate in the coming decades? More broadly, how does it improve upon national best practice in its area, and potentially contribute to driving improvement in facilities across the sector as a whole?
- **Value for investment** – To what extent does your project represent value for money? How do the diverse benefits derived from your project stack up against to the investment of resources, time and effort required to deliver and maintain it? Can you evidence significant efficiency or productivity gains as a result of the project?
- **Institutional context** – How well does your initiative serve your institution’s larger campus/facilities strategy? Is it being used as a model for further initiatives?
- **Sustainability and scalability** – how sustainable is your initiative over the longer term? Could your project or its guiding principles be utilised for other projects? Does it have the potential to significantly elevate practices and outcomes in the Higher Education sector as a whole?

Please be sure to address all criteria and provide as much evidence as possible on each. Please also clearly note the scope, scale, and timeframe of your initiative. You can attach up to four A4 pages of documentation in support of your entry.

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

This Award aims to recognise Higher Education institutions working with industry in a way that goes beyond standard commercial relationships and is genuinely reciprocal, mutually beneficial, and highly valued by both partners. To be eligible, entries must show clear evidence of reciprocal investment/contribution and positive outcomes for both parties. The judges are particularly interested in how the Higher Education institutions involved have discovered and defined what the industry partner(s) was looking for, and shaped that insight into a mutually beneficial relationship.

For the purposes of this Award, “industry” is defined as publicly- and privately-owned businesses and enterprises, as well as Government Business Entities (e.g. Australia Post) and employer bodies such as industry skills councils, industry and professional associations, unions, regulatory and licensing bodies, etc. Collaborations with branches of government and not-for profits are not within the scope of this Award; some such initiatives may be eligible for the Community Engagement Award.

Examples of eligible initiatives or strategies might include: research and development institutes, joint ventures and groups, industry-integrated courses and programs; industry-led educational innovations, industry-informed learning standards and assessment development, collaborative policy initiatives, etc.

The principal criteria for assessing entries in this category are:

- **Reciprocal understanding** – How, and by whom, was this initiative/strategy initiated? How did you discover and define the problem or challenge that industry was seeking to address? What is the driving motivation for each partner, and what other important factors and influences have you had to take into consideration in structuring the relationship/initiative? Have you encountered and overcome any obstacles in the relationship? What does each partner contribute, and has their involvement/investment increased since the relationship began? Can you demonstrate a positive impact on the culture, attitudes, behaviour or values of both parties? More broadly, how does it contribute to better understanding and a more productive dialogue between industry and the Higher Education sector?
- **Demonstrated mutual benefits** – What financial, educational, social, environmental or other benefits has each party derived from your initiative, and on what scale? To what extent has it successfully addressed the core problem or challenge faced by the industry partner? What particular benefits has the participating Higher Education institution enjoyed? Has the initiative grown and/or attracted new participants since its inception? Has the initiative resulted in any further collaboration on other matters?
- **Innovation** – How is your engagement initiative/strategy innovative in concept, objective, approach, design, delivery or content? Has the collaboration produced something new, or resulted in the development of a new way for the parties to work together?
- **Institutional support** – How well does your initiative connect with your institution’s larger public engagement strategy, and has your institution demonstrated commitment to this

initiative by supporting it either financially, in kind, or through policy and recognition of its value?

- **Value for investment** – How do the outcomes of your initiative compare to the investment of resources, time and effort required to deliver and maintain it? Does the initiative deliver any efficiency or productivity gains to your own institution?
- **Sustainability and scalability** – How sustainable is your initiative over the longer term? Is your initiative scalable and potentially applicable to other organisations/industries or other units/departments/institutions? Does it have the potential to significantly promote and elevate engagement with industry in the Higher Education sector as a whole?

Please be sure to address all criteria and provide as much evidence as possible on each. Please also clearly note the scope, scale, and timeframe of your initiative. You can attach up to four A4 pages of documentation in support of your entry. Testimonials from your industry partner(s) evidencing the benefits derived from the initiative are welcomed where appropriate.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

This Award is for strategies or initiatives that have demonstrably enhanced outcomes or improved on standard practice in in-bound, out-bound or collaborative international education, including off-shore campuses.

Examples of eligible initiatives or strategies might include: preparation, cultural integration, safety or post-graduation support initiatives for in-bound or out-bound international students; international brand establishment; innovative transnational partnerships, digital or other initiatives for engaging with off-shore students and staff, strategies to deal with changing policy or other circumstances in the environment in which you operate etc.

The principal criteria for assessing entries in this category are:

- **Demonstrated positive impact** – What demonstrable and measurable impact has your initiative had on international education outcomes? To what extent has it successfully addressed an identified problem or challenge, and on what scale? Can you show a clear trend of improved outcomes in the period since the initiative began? Has the initiative grown and/or attracted new participants since its inception? Can you demonstrate a further impact on the culture, attitudes, behaviour or values of participants, particular with regards to the development of a more truly global, diverse and collaborative culture? More broadly, how does it enhance Australia’s position in the global Higher Education market and/or contribute to a more globally conscious, connected and collaborative society?
- **Innovation** – how is your initiative innovative in concept, objective, approach, design, delivery or content?
- **Institutional support** – how well does your initiative connect with your institution’s larger internationalisation strategy, and has your institution demonstrated commitment to this initiative by supporting it either financially, in kind, or through policy and recognition of its value?
- **Value for investment** – how do the outcomes of your initiative compare to the investment of resources, time and effort required to deliver and maintain it? In addition to positive results, does the initiative deliver any efficiency or productivity gains on previous practices?
- **Sustainability and scalability** – how sustainable is your initiative over the longer term? Is your initiative scalable and potentially applicable to other units/departments/institutions? Does it have the potential to significantly elevate practices and outcomes in the Higher Education sector as a whole?

Please be sure to address all criteria and provide as much evidence as possible on each. Please also clearly note the scope, scale, and timeframe of your initiative. You can attach up to four A4 pages of documentation in support of your entry.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

This Award is for strategies or initiatives that have delivered real and significant improvements to the learning experience and educational outcomes of both domestic and international students.

Examples of eligible initiatives or strategies might include: digital or blended learning innovations, new pedagogical approaches, teacher support/training initiatives, curriculum redesign, transition/retention initiatives, feedback or assessment initiatives, etc.

The principal criteria for assessing entries in this category are:

- **Demonstrated positive impact** – what demonstrable and measurable impact has your initiative had on learning outcomes? To what extent has it successfully addressed an identified problem or challenge, and on what scale? Can you show a clear trend of improved outcomes in the period since the initiative began? Has the initiative grown and/or attracted new participants since its inception? Can you demonstrate a further impact on the culture, attitudes, behaviour or values of participants?
- **Innovation** – how is your initiative innovative in concept, objective, approach, design, delivery or content?
- **Institutional support** – how well does your initiative connect with your institution’s larger teaching and learning strategy, and has your institution demonstrated commitment to this initiative by supporting it either financially, in kind, or through policy and recognition of its value?
- **Value for investment** – how do the outcomes of your initiative compare to the investment of resources, time and effort required to deliver and maintain it? In addition to positive results, does the initiative deliver any efficiency or productivity gains on previous practices?
- **Sustainability and scalability** – how sustainable is your initiative over the longer term? Is your initiative scalable and potentially applicable to other units/departments/institutions? Does it have the potential to significantly elevate practices and outcomes in the Higher Education sector as a whole?

Please be sure to address all criteria and provide as much evidence as possible on each. Please also clearly note the scope, scale, and timeframe of your initiative. You can attach up to four A4 pages of documentation in support of your entry.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

The Lifetime Achievement Award will honour an individual's outstanding contribution to the Australian Higher Education sector over a lifetime of leadership, innovation and service.

The judging panel is looking for nominations of individuals who:

- Have 25 years or more of service and excellence within the Australian Higher Education sector
- Have significantly advanced and improved practices in Higher Education through their leadership and advocacy at an institution, sectorial, state/territory, national or global level
- Have made world-class and sustained personal contributions in research, teaching, administration and/or policy
- Have embodied the sector's core values of innovation, reason, curiosity, humility, and passion for creating, transmitting and receiving knowledge
- Have inspired those around them with their vision, ability and personal integrity

The winner will be chosen on the basis of verifiable evidence of achievement and peer recognition.

Nominees for this category do NOT need to be currently employed in the Higher Education sector to be eligible, but they DO need to be permanent residents of Australia.

Nominations for this Award are open and can be received from any individual, unit or institution. Please be sure to address all the points noted above and provide as much evidence as possible on each. You can attach up to four A4 pages of documentation in support of your entry.