

Sample Application for the University Distinguished Teaching Award (UDTA)/Outstanding Teaching Award (OTA)/Early Career Teaching Award (ECTA)

1. Statement of teaching philosophy with reference made to the three selection criteria (*i.e. (a) Adoption of learner-centred approaches, ability to engage/inspire/impact on students and demonstration of superior acumen in teaching; (b) Course/programme/curriculum design that can reflect a command of the field; (c) Past/present achievement(s) and leadership in teaching and potential scholarly contribution to and impact on the development of effective teaching practice.)

Here are five attributes that characterise me as a psychology teacher: Student-Centred, Empathetic, Passionate, Reflective, and Fun. I always put myself in my students' shoes when teaching social work. From time to time, I would ask myself "If I were a student, how would I like to learn?" or "When I was a student, what kind of teacher did I love to learn from?" I also try to eliminate the power distance between me and my students so that they will feel more comfortable to share their learning needs and concern.....

Early this year, I was awarded Senior Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy, which I consider as a major milestone in my teaching career.....

I believe that the main aim of higher education is not to produce graduates who are only able to regurgitate textbook content, but to nurture graduates who are critical thinkers and problem solvers, with a high level of resilience. I often implement debate as an in-class activity to stimulate students' critical thinking skills...... Although developing students' resilience is not included in any of the intended learning outcomes in my course, I have been working closely with the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) to develop workshops for my students to attend......

Recently, I noticed that my students have been using ChatGPT for their assignments, which made me curious about the role of machine in student learning. In fact, I have been working with a fellow colleague in my department on a research study which aims to find out more about students' experiences of using ChatGPT in their learning. I hope that findings from this study can help me to better facilitate teacher-student-machine partnership in the near future.....

2. Evidence-based materials showing the impact of excellent teaching on students' learning outcomes and the manner in which your/your team's work may be generalised and applied to other disciplines

I have always been dedicated to teaching psychology, and I do have a good reputation for being able to teach psychological theories in a student-friendly way, and I do consistently receive positive feedback from students in Student Feedback on Teaching and Learning (SFTL):

Student A "Dr. XXX was able to help me understand the different theories in psychology with real-life examples."

Student B ".....

Last year, I invited Dr. XYY from the Teaching and Learning Innovation Centre (TALIC) to observe my class and give me some feedback on my teaching. Here are some comments from Dr. XYY on my teaching:



3. Evidence-based materials showing your engagement in professional development activities and commitment in continuous professional development

As I find feedback from Dr. XYY extremely helpful, this year, I invited Dr. XYZ from the Department of Sociology to be my "buddy" in formative peer review of teaching. We would observe each other's class once per semester, reflect on our teaching practices and share feedback with each other. As the both of us were new to conducting peer review of teaching at the beginning, we seek help from Dr. XYY, who did not only introduce us to the steps of peer review and gave us a template for peer observation, but also joined in our first round of peer observation and provided us constructive feedback.....

In addition to engaging in formative peer review of teaching, I also engage in self-learning by participating in teaching and learning workshops offered by the TALIC regularly.....

*Please refer to the online application form for the 3 selection criteria in full.