

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.*)

My philosophy on how to best achieve this relates to the following:

(a) Being enthusiastic – The teachers must be able to instil that enthusiasm in students. Certain subjects, such as statistics and qualitative research methods, are not the most appealing or most exciting topics among students. It is a high priority for me that my students see my passion and confidence in the subject matter. A good teacher should demonstrate to their students that they enjoy the subject matter, that they believe in the curriculum, and are dedicated to the learning process.....

(b)

(c)

My teaching involves a wide array of carefully designed learning activities in research methodology courses. My students develop research and critical thinking skills in class by engaging in group discussions and mini research projects, where they get hands-on experience in running statistical analysis in R.....

I was a co-investigator on a Teaching Development Grant project with other colleagues which aimed to develop an application to facilitate student learning of statistics in a more fun and engaging way. The app, called “*FunStats” is currently available for downloading on both Android and Apple devices.....

Part of my current research is related to student learning in higher education. For example, I am researching on what are the types of feedback which students see as effective in facilitating their learning of statistics.....

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

To ensure the best learning experience for my students, it is important to engage them in learning, which is my primary goal when designing every course. In my teaching of quantitative research methods, I always make sure that my classes are interactive, where students actively engage with the subject matter. The activities I design are intended to challenge them both in terms of content and processes, encouraging them to question and explore. By engaging students with data which they can easily relate to in daily life, they are more motivated to learn.....

Here are some examples of written feedback from my students:

Student A “Dr. XXX was always enthusiastic about doing data analysis. Through my learning experiences with her, I also began to share that enthusiasm.”

Student B “Dr. XXX always engaged us with the learning materials in a way that we could understand and see the relationship between research questions, data and analysis.”

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

I am a true lifelong learner who is committed to improving my ability to provide better learning experiences for my students and to just learn new things for my own personal interest. I regularly attend seminars and workshops such as the recent seminar hosted by the Teaching and Learning Innovation Centre, on the use of technology to enhance assessment.....

**Please refer to the online application form for the 3 selection criteria in full. Please also note that the name of the application used is fictitious and created solely for illustrative purposes.*