An introduction to CATE - Transcription

Welcome, my name is Dr Holly Earl Phillips and I'm a Fellowships and Awards Adviser here at Advance HE. In this short video I’m going to provide an overview of our Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence or CATE as it is often termed. I will begin by outlining the background and history of the award, I'll move on to provide an overview of the application and review process and I'll finish by discussing the benefits that winning a CATE award can bring to teams and institutions.

What is the Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence?

The Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence 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 collaboration in higher education. Each award recognises a team that has enabled a change in practice for colleagues or students at an institutional or discipline level. In 2018 the scheme opened to members of staff from all higher education providers across the four nations of the United Kingdom. Institutions can nominate one team a year that can demonstrate having an impact through their collaborative work on teaching and learning.

CATE teams come in all shapes and sizes and are as diverse as the collaborative work that they’re involved in. Team members may come from academic backgrounds or professional services and be on any number of different contract types. The team may also include members from industry and from other HEIs. Finally, teams may also have members from the community and student partners. There is no limit to the size of the CATE team, but it is really important that that team can demonstrate and having an impact on teaching and learning through their collaborative work.

Each HEI has a designated institutional contact who is responsible for submitting the nomination documents on behalf of the nominated team. The main part of the team's application is a 3,500 word written claim where they demonstrate the evidence they have of reach, value and impact against the two CATE criteria.

Another important component of the team's claim is the context statement, which is a 300 word piece of writing where the team can explain their background so that the reviewers can be orientated towards the kind of evidence they're going to be assessing. The claim is also supported by other important nomination documents which are coordinated by the institutional contact. You can find out much more about this process in the guidance for institutions and nominated teams document which you can found on the Advance HE website.

Each team nomination is considered by independent external peer reviewers based on information that nominated teams submit against the two CATE award criteria. CATE reviewers are all teaching and learning professionals with experience in criteria based assessment. They have all undergone internal training and recently completed a moderation exercise. Reviewers are asked to score the team's claim between zero and five against each of the two CATE criteria ensuring that two criteria are equally weighted in the assessment process.

Reviewers' scores and feedback are collated and provided to Advance HE at the UK teaching excellence awards advisory panel. Ultimately only fifteen teams are selected each year to receive the award which shows what a fantastic and prestigious achievement it really is. All teams receive written feedback on their application regardless of whether they're successful or not. This feedback is intended to assist teams to continue their excellent practice but also to help teams who were not successful to identify the type of evidence that might help improve their claim should they wish to submit it in a future year.
Benefits for individuals and institutions.

Wining a CATE has a number of benefits for both teams and the institutions that they belong to. It provides teams with national recognition and profile for their collaborative work in learning and teaching within higher education. As such the award can help open doors to new collaborative or career opportunities. Winning teams can connect virtually on Advance HE Connect and join a national community of likeminded professionals who are passionate about collaborative approaches to teaching excellence.

For institutions gaining a CATE award offers an extension to university wide team based recognition schemes as a means to raise the status of teaching and learning. The prestigious award showcases the institution’s support of collaborative approaches to developing teaching excellence and the impact on teaching and learning. It also enables staff to collaborate and network with colleagues across disciplines, themes, institutions, nations and even countries.

Much more information, including profiles of winners and finalists from all previous years of the CATE award, can be found on the Advance HE website. You can contact the Teaching Excellence Award Team with any questions at cate@advance-he.ac.uk. You will also want to keep an eye out for the case studies of successful CATE teams that Advance HE regularly publish. These can be really helpful as well as inspiring resources that showcase the long term impact of winning a prestigious CATE award.