Call for Applications for the 2020[1] Innovative Teaching Award

The 2020 Innovative Teaching Awards will focus on course designs that take an innovative approach to providing online support for students' learning processes.

1 Objectives

The goal of the Innovative Teaching Award is to reward instructors who use innovative teaching methods at WU.

Every year, the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs and a group of reviewers (a full professor, a member of the junior faculty, a representative of the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs, an expert on the didactics of higher education, and a student nominated by the ÖH Austrian Students' Union) compile a list of no more than ten courses selected for the Innovative Teaching Award. This list is then presented to the Rector's Council.

The award aims to:

- Honor the continuing efforts, dedication, and commitment of teaching staff members working to improve teaching quality at WU

- Stimulate new ideas and concepts to enhance the didactic quality of courses and lectures at WU

- Increase awareness of innovative and exemplary teaching methods. The winning courses serve as inspiration for other teaching staff members to further develop their teaching methods.

2 Focus: Supporting learning processes online

Student learning processes can be encouraged outside the classroom through the use of supporting online phases. The design of online phases can vary, depending on their specific objectives and functions. Online phases can be used to impart knowledge, for group work, for monitoring the students' own progress, or for evaluating performance. Online phases can also be used to facilitate further exchange between students and teachers.

This year's call for applications is looking for course concepts in which students are provided with exemplary support during online phases. This support can take a number of different forms: structuring online learning materials, alternating input and activities, answering student questions, or providing feedback on exercises and homework. The teaching award puts a spotlight on courses that combine innovatively designed online support and guidance with a well thought-out course

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[1] Courses held during the 2019 calendar year (summer semester 2019, winter semester 2019/20) are eligible for the 2020 Innovative Teaching Award. Courses held over two semesters (WS 2018/19–SS 2019) can also be nominated.

design with regard to media-based didactics.

The following types of course designs are eligible for the 2020 Innovative Teaching Award:

- **Course designs which use interactive, multimedia-based methods of knowledge transfer to help students grasp those concepts which you know are difficult for them:**

  Which media do you combine to teach concepts using a multimedia-based method (e.g. text, graphics, audio, or video)? Which multimedia forms do you use to communicate content that you know students find complex or difficult? Which multimedia forms do you use to encourage students to acquire knowledge independently? What forms of interaction with learning materials do you offer your students? Which media-based teaching methods do you use to keep your students' attention and help them concentrate on the learning materials?

- **Course designs which use media-based didactic approaches to encourage contact between teachers and students:**

  How do you initiate contact with students during online phases? What role do you play during online phases and how do you fulfill the responsibilities associated with this role? Which support formats do you use to support the students' learning processes? Which communication technologies do you use to communicate with students during online phases?

- **Course designs that use media-based approaches to encourage peer interaction:**

  How do you support cooperative or collaborative forms of learning during online phases? How do you use peer activities during online phases? Which didactic methods do you use to encourage peer interaction and cooperation during online phases (e.g. forming study groups, assigning workflow tasks, peer feedback)? Which teaching/learning tools do you provide to students online for peer activities?

- **Course designs that integrate e-assessments (incl. self-assessments) during online phases:**

  What types of e-assessment do you use? How are e-assessments integrated into the online phases? Which technologies are used to carry out e-assessments in the online phases? How do students get feedback on e-assessments? How are the results of the e-assessments discussed during the course?

3 Award criteria

- **Innovative media-based didactic concept**

  To be considered innovative, course designs must be unprecedented at WU with regard to the focus area or use new, uncommon, or unorthodox combinations of teaching and learning concepts. The submission must include a description of the innovative character and added value of the didactic approach employed.

- **Transferability**

  Course designs considered for the award should serve as examples and models to be followed and should be planned in a way that allows for the didactic concept used to be transferred to

other courses.

- **Reflexivity**

  The teacher has to reflect on the course concept, its goals and the implementation in a systematic way to enhance the teaching and learning quality at WU.

- **Logical connection between course design and learning outcomes**

  There should be a logical, well-founded connection between the individual media-based didactic elements of the course and the intended learning outcomes of the course (or the learning outcomes of the program or module).

4 Award guidelines

- Individuals or groups can submit an application for the Innovative Teaching Award. In case of a group application, a group representative has to be designated. It is the responsibility of the designated applicant to distribute the prize money among the members of a group.

  Only individuals or groups that actually perform the eligible activity can receive the award.

- Award winners agree to make the presentation of their course design together with the submitted application form available for publication on WU's website.

- The submission has to meet the standards specified in section 5 of this document. Submissions that do not meet the formal criteria will not be considered for the award.

- All faculty members with teaching activities at WU (or the Executive Academy) in the calendar year 2019 (SS 2019, WS 2019/20) for which the award is presented are eligible to apply or to be nominated for the award.

- Award-winning course designs will be posted on the WU website to serve as models for other courses.

5 Required documents

Please provide the following documents with your application:

- A **completed application form**: A detailed and publishable **presentation of the course concept** using the template provided in the application form in digital form (pdf or doc). This presentation should not exceed a **maximum of five pages** (excluding appendix).

- Appendix: e.g. evaluation results (if applicable)

6 Application and selection process

The deadline for submissions is **February 09, 2020.** The documents can be sent to lehrenundlernen@wu.ac.at.

The winning entries will be selected in May 2020 and the Innovative Teaching Award will be presented at the WU Awards Ceremony. The prizes will be paid out together with WU's other performance bonus payments.