



NATIONAL FORUM
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF TEACHING
AND LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Teaching Hero Awards

The Teaching Hero Awards learning impact awards were first launched in January 2014. The awards are run in partnership with the Union of students of Ireland (USI). Students can nominate their teaching hero by completing an online nomination form, which includes the reasons why a staff member is a teaching hero as well as the impact this has had on the students teaching and learning experience. The campaign is run locally by the student's union office within each institution.

These nominations allow students to inform the sector of what they value as key attributes to their learning experience and provides students with an opportunity to recognise and the excellence in teaching and learning across the sector.

The student's union officers within institutions play an instrumental part in promoting and informing students about the awards. Institutional student unions run local campaigns within their institutions to gather nominations. The National Forum sets up an email address for student queries as well as uploading the information and documentation about the awards up on the National Forum website. Each student union receives access to the video, posters, leaflets and other promotional material for their campaign.

Once the closing date for nominations passed the National Forum collected the nominations for each institution, anonymised the nominations and sent them on to the student's unions officer's to be marked. Each nomination is given a score from 1-4 depending on the level of impact a teaching hero had on a student. As larger the class size the more difficult it would be for a staff member to impact on a students learning experience. Therefore, the nominations are sent back to the National Forum where a formula is applied to each score. The names of the staff nominated along with the total score of all their nominations is sent back to the student's union office. The student's union office then reviews this file and identify the Teaching Heroes from their institution. Institutions must have had at least 20 nominations to be eligible to identify a hero, institutions with 20-50 nominations identify 1 hero and institutions with more than 50 nominations identify a maximum of 2 heroes). Heroes are asked in advance if they wish to accept their nomination prior to their name being released.

Analysis of the 2014 nominations and of the teaching approaches of the 2014 Teaching Heroes identified has already been carried out. A summary of findings is available at:

What does it take to be a Teaching Hero?

http://www.teachingandlearning.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/27-02-2015_Teaching-hero-Feb-2015-3.pdf

Teaching Heroes – Accounts of their Personal and Professional Approaches to Teaching

<http://www.teachingandlearning.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Teaching-Heroes-Accounts.pdf>