

E³UDRES² Award of Excellence for Innovative Teaching Methods

Award Description:

The *E³UDRES² Award of Excellence for Innovative Teaching Methods* recognizes exceptional educators who have demonstrated a transformative approach to teaching in higher education. This award honours educators who have gone beyond traditional teaching techniques, incorporating creativity, technology, and new methodologies that enhance learning experiences and student success.

Eligibility:

- Open to all teaching personnel from all disciplines in the higher education institutions of the E³UDRES² Alliance, including lecturers, professors, teaching assistants, and educators in other academic roles.
 - Nominees must have implemented innovative teaching methods within their courses or academic programs that have led to positive learning outcomes.
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Application Process:

To apply for the award, nominees are required to submit:

1. A 500–700-word essay (written in English) that outlines:

- The innovative teaching method they have developed or implemented, as well as the Intended learning outcomes.
- The specific challenges the method addresses (e.g., engagement, technology, inclusivity, etc.).
- Description of the method's impact on student learning, engagement, and learning outcomes.
- Any unique features that make this method particularly effective or pioneering in the context of higher education.

2. Supporting Materials (optional but encouraged):

- Student testimonials or feedback regarding the teaching method.
- Course materials or lesson plans demonstrating the innovation.
- Examples of how the teaching method could be scaled or adapted to other disciplines or academic contexts.
- Supporting data on the impact of on student performance and/or engagement (if available).

3. Nomination Deadline: Applications are due by **09 May 2025**.

4. Submission of Applications: Submit your essay and supporting files by the above-mentioned deadline at alexandros.xafis@fhstp.ac.at.

Nomination Process:

- **Self-Nomination:** Educators can submit their essay and supporting materials.
- **Peer Nomination:** Colleagues, administrators, or students can nominate an educator they feel deserves the award, by submitting a short exposé outlining why they believe the educator's method stands out. Nominees will be contacted to submit their full application.
- **Selection Committee:**
A panel of experts from diverse fields will review the submissions and select the winners.

Selection Criteria:

The winner will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Innovation and Creativity:

- The teaching method should demonstrate creativity and originality. It should challenge conventional approaches and introduce new ways to engage students, utilize technology, or adapt to modern learning challenges.

2. Impact on Student Learning:

- How has the method lead to the intended outcomes, and improved students' understanding and learning? This could include enhanced student participation, better academic performance, or deeper engagement with the material.

3. Description of Effectiveness:

- Concrete and comprehensive description showcasing the impact of the teaching method on students. This could include academic results, surveys, feedback, or other data that demonstrate the positive results of the innovation.

4. Adaptability and Scalability:

- The ability of the teaching method to be applied across various disciplines or educational contexts, or to be adapted for diverse groups of students (e.g., international students, students with disabilities, etc.).

5. Inclusivity and Accessibility:

- How the method addresses inclusivity, making learning accessible to all students, regardless of background, learning style, or challenges they may face.

6. Student Engagement:

- The extent to which the teaching method encourages active student participation and fosters a stimulating learning environment. This could include the use of collaborative activities, interactive technologies, or real-world applications.

Award Presentation:

The award will be presented during the E³UDRES² Science Festival at St. Pölten, on Wednesday 21 May 2025 at 19:00 – 20:30 (look at updated programme for details), where the winner will be celebrated for their contributions to advancing education through innovative teaching practices. They will also have the opportunity to share their teaching experience and insights with a larger audience at the festival (hybrid participation possible).

Incentives for Award recipients:

The **three recipients** of the E³UDRES² Award of Excellence for Innovative Teaching Methods will be recognized for their groundbreaking contributions to education. The winners will enjoy the following incentives:

- A **monetary prize** for the three best submissions of 1000€ for the first place, 750€ for the second place, and 500€ for the third place.
- **Opportunity to lead a workshop or session**, organized by E³UDRES², where they can share their innovative teaching methods with E³UDRES² colleagues and students.
- **Extensive public exposure** through all available E³UDRES² channels, including promotion on our social media platforms, newsletter, website, and opportunities for interviews on our podcast and/or radio/TV shows.
- A **custom certificate** that recognizes their exceptional achievement in innovative teaching and contribution to advancing educational practices.

These incentives are designed to honour and amplify the recipients' impact within the academic community.