The FIMS Award for Excellence in Teaching

The FIMS Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes teaching as a central practice in the work of FIMS faculty. The award acknowledges a variety of contributions to teaching that support the intellectual development and well-being of students at all levels—undergraduate, graduate and professional—and enhance the pedagogical environment at FIMS. We welcome applications from instructors at all career stages and particularly encourage nominations and self-nominations from new, pre-tenure, and pre-continuing status colleagues. The FIMS Award for Excellence in Teaching may support future nominations of FIMS colleagues for campus and national awards.

Some examples of contributions to teaching that the Executive Committee will consider in reviewing nominations include:

- Innovations in teaching approach, format, content, and delivery
- Innovations and critical developments in curriculum at all levels
- Effective collaborations with other faculty members and/or staff in course delivery
- Evidence of reflective development and growth as an instructor
- Sustained positive student feedback or a steady upward trend in student feedback (as a measure of classroom experience)
- Contributions to holistic student learning
- EHectively modeling and promoting academic freedom in the classroom
- Effective inclusion of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Decolonization, Indigenization, and Access (EDIDIA) principles in course delivery
- The sustained incorporation of Community Engaged Learning practices in courses and instruction
- Innovative approaches to using ICTs (information and communication technologies) in the classroom, with the goal of enhancing student learning experiences

This list is not exhaustive. We welcome the introduction of new practices for teaching development.

Nomination Process

Packets for the 2024-25 FIMS Teaching Award of Excellence are due on January 15, 2026.

For the full-time award, all full-time FIMS faculty members at any rank are eligible to be nominated. For the part-time award, all part-time faculty who have taught the equivalent of one full course (1.0) or more within the previous fiscal year (May 1-April 30, the LD contract period) are eligible to be nominated. Full-time and part-time awards will be adjudicated separately and will be made annually to one or more colleagues in each group. The award carries no financial benefit.

Teaching Excellence nominations may come from a range of sources, including:

- Self-nomination
- Nomination by a FIMS faculty colleague (including Dean, Assistant Dean, and Associate Deans)
- Nomination by a FIMS staff member with knowledge of the nominee's teaching (e.g., studio colleagues)
- Nomination by a graduate or undergraduate student

A nominator should ensure that the intended nominee is willing to accept a nomination, since the nominee will prepare their nomination packet. Nominations will be adjudicated by the Executive Committee and the source of the nomination will not be ranked (i.e., collegial nominations will not be prioritized over student nominations or vice versa).

An Executive Committee member who is nominated and wishes to be considered will excuse themselves from the committee for selection purposes.

No full-time colleague may be nominated within three years of having received the FIMS Teaching Award of Excellence. No part-time faculty colleague may be nominated within one year of receiving the FIMS Teaching Award of Excellence.

Please include the following in your nomination packets:

Required:

- Letter of nomination (1 page max)
- Statement of teaching philosophy and practice, including teaching and supervisory highlights in the preceding 1-5 years (3 pages max); feel free to include adjustments, improvements, innovations and collaborations that have moved you in your desired direction as a teacher, curriculum developer, supervisor, or mentor
- Updated curriculum vitae, including courses taught at FIMS in the last 5 years (or any portion of 5 years a colleague has worked at FIMS), a record of curricular developments or innovations, and supervisions underway and completed

Optional (maximum 20 pages):

- SQCT reports or nominee's summary of report comments and scores (not using averages)
- Peer reviews of teaching
- Course descriptions and syllabi
- Teaching recognition from other sources and reviews
- Additional documents the nominee considers relevant and expressive of their teaching practice

Please direct queries to the FIMS Executive Committee (fims-executive@uwo.ca) or any Committee member (listed on the FIMS Intranet) and submit your nomination packet to Sara Irons at **fims-submissions@uwo.ca**.