

Getting Recognised: Accrediting and Promoting Professional Learning in Distance Education at the OU UK

Dr Carina Bossu
Academic Lead for Applaud
Senior Lecturer (Academic Professional Development)
The Open University UK

About this presentation

- HEA Fellowship and Applaud
- What's in it for university staff?
- What's in it for the university (impact)?
- Applaud's numbers
- What are the main barrier?



HEA Fellowship and Applaud

- **HEA Fellowship** is an international recognition of a commitment to professionalism in teaching and learning in higher education and demonstrates that individual practice is aligned with the UK Professional Standards Framework (UKPSF).
- HEA Fellowships are accredited by **AdvanceHE** – UK not for profit organisational and sector agency that promotes excellence in L&T in higher education.
- Most UK institutions are members of the AdvanceHE
- **Applaud**: Accrediting & Promoting Professional Learning & Academic Development (OU's own scheme)

How does it work?



The UKPSF/Applaud Principles - Dimensions of practice

Practice - what we do

- A1 Design and plan learning activities and/or programmes of study
- A2 Teach **at a distance** and/or support **distance and open** learning
- A3 Assess and give feedback to learners
- A4 Develop learning environments that support **open and distance** students to succeed
- A5 Develop our understanding of our subjects and how to teach them **at a distance**, incorporating appropriate subject research, professional updating, educational scholarship and reflection on our practice
- A6 Work collaboratively within the distributed OU community to support the learning of students, our colleagues and ourselves**

Knowledge - what we need to know

- K1 A sound grasp of the subjects or topics we teach
- K2 How to teach our subjects effectively to support **open and distance learning**
- K3 How students learn **at a distance**, both generally and within our subject
- K4 How technologies can facilitate and enhance **distance and open learning**
- K5 How to evaluate our practice and the learner experience, and the effectiveness of teaching
- K6 Why quality assurance and quality enhancement matter for our work and for the learner experience

Values - being professional

- V1 Putting students first, by respecting individual learners and valuing diverse and distributed learning communities
- V2 Promoting participation in higher education and equality of opportunity by making learning accessible **in open, distance and virtual learning environments**
- V3 Using evidence from research, scholarship and our professional development to underpin our approaches to teaching and supporting learning
- V4 Recognising in our practice how changing professional, cultural, national and global factors affect learners, as individuals, as citizens and as employees

The Applaud Scheme

- Not a taught program or module
- Candidates can register at any time
- Candidates can change their submission date 3 times
- There are 4 categories: Associate Fellowship, Fellowship and Senior Fellowship
- There is a set of documents to submit - main one have to write about your teaching practices and what it is that makes a good teacher
- Who can register? Academic, academic related and associate lecturers

What's in it for individuals?

- Professional recognition of *teaching*
- Promotion and career progress
- Recognised throughout UK and internationally
- Opportunity to reflect on practice
- Opportunity to discuss practice with others
- Affirmation of professional identity
- Join community of Fellows



What's in it for the university

- Creates opportunity for staff to engage in professional development and reflective practice
- Increases staff engagement with the Scholarship of Learning and Teaching
- Creates a culture of awareness of good teaching principles and practice
- It helps the UK universities to meet the **Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF)**



Applaud numbers

	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	Total
AFHEA	6	5	8	2	41
FHEA	40	103	59	17	340
SFHEA	44	74	37	11	246
PFHEA	2	6	2	2	16
Total	92	188	106	32	418

At of today we have:

- Over 100 trained mentors
- Approx 25 trained assessors
- 290 active candidates in the system – 135 with a 22nd Nov deadline

Support to individuals

- Resources on the website
- The support of a mentor
- Online forums
- Online and face to face support sessions
 - Welcome to Applaud
 - Writing workshops
- Inquiries and further support by email communication



Barriers to completion

- 481 cancelled registration
- Short survey to capture the reasons for the cancellation:
 - Heavy workload/time
 - Change jobs and circumstances
 - Family/personal issues
 - Not having the support needed
 - Difficulty in getting started



Contact us

- AdvanceHE Website: <https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/individuals/fellowship/fellow>
- Applaud website: <http://applaud.open.ac.uk>
- Email: applaud@open.ac.uk
- Twitter @OUApplaud
- carina.bossu@open.ac.uk @carinabossu





Thank you!
Questions?