STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

Writing a Compelling Application

#7 Tips For Success

VC L&T Awards

DR MORWENNA KIRWAN
TIP #1 – CRITERIA

Don’t dilute your evidence by trying to cover all criteria

Select the criteria that you have the most evidence for
TIP #2 – NARRATIVE

Structure your application in response to three questions:

1. **Problem** - What problem or challenge was occurring for your students?

2. **Solution** - What did you do to resolve this challenge, and what did you have your students do?

3. **Impact** - How do you know that your approach worked?
Research shows up to 80% of Psychology students experience statistics anxiety.

This fear is a real impediment for all students, but particularly to online students with non-academic backgrounds.
Students typically feel overwhelmed with the sheer complexity of their masters-level curriculum, particularly in relation to the diagnosis and management of health conditions.

Students are fearful of being examined in clinical simulation environments, an assessment type that they have had no experience with.
Anatomical pathology is a medical speciality that is in poor demand worldwide.

Research has shown that medical graduates do not choose pathology because of inadequate exposure and poor educational delivery.

This is concerning because pathology is the basis of disease and to be a safe medical practitioner you need to have a sound understanding of the subject.
80% of MPH students are international with vastly different cultural, educational and literacy backgrounds.

Most of these international students struggle to find work in Australia post-graduation – largely due to lack of digital skills and understanding of public health work opportunities.
A silo-mentality to curriculum development dominates in faculties at higher education institutions.

These silos can create a disconnect and inconsistent teaching practices for students studying cross-disciplinary degrees or those on a pathway from our undergraduate generalist to postgraduate professional degrees.
Psychology students dread statistics, have poor maths literacy and see no inherent value in statistical-skill development for their future careers.

NAOMI SWELLER
Student-nominated Winner 2020
TIP #3 SHOWCASE YOUR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Include in your application:

- why you teach
- why you care
- what ideas and theories of learning and teaching underpin your approach
TIP #3 SHOWCASE YOUR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Featured / Practice

Do You Have A Teaching Philosophy?

Do you have a teaching philosophy? It’s a definite advantage to have one prepared, so here are some pointers.
TIP #4 - FLOW

1. Who are your students?
2. What is the context of your teaching?
3. What problems, challenges or opportunities did you observe for your students?
4. What outstanding contributions to student learning, and contemporary approaches to teaching, did you design, develop and use to address these matters?
5. How do you know that these contributions and approaches worked?
• Sustainable and significant impact

• Breadth (across many units) + depth (over many iterations)

• Include evidence:
  • of the problem/challenge (e.g., student cohort data)
  • how you know your approach worked (e.g., learning analytics)
  • that your approach(es) have been recognised by your colleagues, external stakeholders and/or university
  • that you have shared your approaches and that they have been adopted by others

TIP #5 EVIDENCE
TIP #6 – BE PROACTIVE

Approach peers for testimonials
Showcase your teaching externally
Play the long game
TIP #7 - LANGUAGE

1. Assessors are not in your area of expertise – avoid technical terms and abbreviations
2. Refer to and draw from our Learning and Teaching Strategic Framework 2020-2024
3. Read MQ Teche blog around your topic
4. Read the exemplar award applications provided
5. Read scholarly articles on your topic
This video is for staff at Macquarie University.

This video was conceptualised, designed, filmed and edited by Dr Morwenna Kirwan.

The content provided in this video was curated by Dr Morwenna Kirwan.