Innovative Use of Educational Technology Excellence Awards
Administered by the Teaching and Learning Support Service
Introduction
In April 2013, the Board of Governors approved an initiative for the large scale implementation of blended courses at the University. Why? Because blended courses combine the best of online and face-to-face teaching practices to enrich the student learning experience, while providing many benefits for both students and professors. Indeed, research shows that blended learning formats improve both retention rates and student performance.

The Teaching and Learning Support Service (TLSS) plays an important role in the implementation of this initiative by offering training and support to professors and instructional staff members wishing to redesign their courses. The TLSS also administers a funding program enabling them to obtain up to $5,000 for the design of blended courses.

As part of this institutional initiative which is aligned with the objectives of the “Destination 2020” strategic plan, the TLSS would like to recognize the quality of the courses designed by professors and instructional staff members by offering three excellence awards along with an amount of $2,000, $3,000 and $5,000 annually. These awards will help to: reconnaître la qualité du travail accompli et les efforts des professeurs et des membres du personnel enseignant qui choisissent de faire le passage vers les cours hybrides;

- recognize the quality of the work and the efforts of professors and instructional staff members who choose to make the transition to a blended course format;
- provide examples of exemplary courses based on quality standards to inspire other professors and instructional staff members to participate in this important institutional initiative;
- associate a seal of quality to blended courses to increase their recognition; and
- support professors and instructional staff members who choose to innovate in the field of educational technology, and as such provide an opportunity for additional funding to continue current projects or begin new ones.

Purpose of the awards
To enhance the student experience by improving the quality of blended course design, all while acknowledging the exceptional work done by many professors and instructional staff members who choose to devote their effort to the quality of teaching (Destination 2020).
Eligibility criteria

The applicant must:

1. be a professor or an instructional staff member (regular or part time) at the University of Ottawa;
2. have designed a blended course which makes use of the University of Ottawa’s learning management system (LMS);
3. have taught the blended course in the 12 months prior to the nomination deadline; and
4. submit, in a timely fashion, a complete nomination package.

Note: candidates can be nominated more than once over the years.

Amount of the award: $2,000 to $5,000
Number of awards: Three (one of $2,000, one of $3,000 and one of $5,000)
Frequency of the awards: Annual
Use of the amount received: Further activities related to the improvement of university teaching
Application contact: TLSS Educational Program Manager
Application deadline: May 1st

Application procedure

A nomination package must be completed electronically and submitted to the TLSS no later than May 1st of each year (or the next business day, if May 1st falls on a weekend or during a holiday).

Selection committee

The selection committee will be comprised of five persons from the TLSS (or nominated by the TLSS).

Evaluation of the completed nominations by the selection committee will occur during the month of May each year. The selection criteria are described in the attached rubric (see appendices A).
Recognition
The TLSS will plan an official awards ceremony during an activity from its training and events schedule ensuring that there is a link between the chosen event and the nature of the awards (i.e., innovative educational technology). Recipients will have an opportunity to make a brief presentation (5-10 minutes each) on a particular aspect of the blended course they have designed. The recipients will also be invited to participate in other training or promotional activities related to the Blended Learning Initiative.

Financial arrangements
1. Funds which support the excellence awards are tied to the budget granted within the context of the Blended Learning Initiative.
2. The financial year of the fund is May 1st to April 30th.

Exception for 2018

Deadline for submitting a nomination package: June 15, 2018 (4 p.m.) Complete nomination package must be sent by email to: saea-tlss@uOttawa.ca

Should you have any questions, contact Nancy Vézina at 613-562-5800 extension 3899 or by email at Nancy.Vezina@uOttawa.ca.