

Recipients: ACU Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Postgraduate Teaching

2025 – Not awarded

2024 – Not awarded

2023

Associate Professor Alison Owens, Centre for Education and Innovation

Synopsis: Leonardo da Vinci made the case for lifelong learning when he observed, "Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears, and never regrets". This observation is perhaps most powerfully evidenced by postgraduate study, my field of practice. Alison's philosophy of teaching is inspired by da Vinci's claim and aligns with Boyer's (1990) definition of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) involving discovery, integration, application and teaching. She sees scholarship in higher education as a perpetual cycle that engages the learner traversing the developmental pathway from new teacher to academic leader, encountering and negotiating theories of learning, diverse student cohorts, advances in the discipline, changes in sector market, policy and governance, and continuing technological transformation. Alison engages in these processes as a leader in scholarship and professional learning at ACU with keen awareness of the interconnectedness of what is discovered through reflective practice and scholarly research, how these discoveries are effectively applied to her own teaching and integrated with the work of colleagues, many of whom also teach. Modelling, supporting and extending this cyclical scholarly practice for her students and colleagues is her postgraduate mission and context.

2022 - Not awarded

2021 - Not awarded

2020 – Not awarded

2019 – Not awarded

2018

Dr Al Marshall, Faculty of Law and Business

Synopsis: The Faculty of Business and Law 'Virtual Classroom' postgraduate initiative, organised and taught by Dr Al Marshall, is a partnership with international university partners designed to provide rich and relevant learning experiences for postgraduate students. The rationale for this major curriculum development centres on enhancing students' abilities to solve problems in a variety of settings, taking local and international perspectives into account, and providing opportunities to practice communicating/negotiating across cultural boundaries; building partnerships with international universities, particularly with our Catholic partners; strengthening the case for international accreditations such as EPAS; contributing to our rise in international rankings; and delivering on the mission of the university. The Virtual Classroom offers a resource efficient way to deliver a cross cultural learning experience for students who may not be able to afford a Study Abroad experience. The first Virtual Classroom Initiative was implemented in Semester 1, 2016, with Binus International University, in Jakarta, Indonesia. This led to a range of Virtual Classroom Projects: with Binus International University, in Indonesia, with the University of San Diego, in the United States, and with the Catholic University of America, also in the United States.

2017

Professor Geraldine Castleton (Team Application), Faculty of Education and Arts

Team members: Rev Dr James McEvoy, Dr Tim Moore, Ms Anita Phillips, Dr Andrew Fraser, Dr Jonathon Sargeant, Prof David Hall

Synopsis: Quality course offerings focused on safeguarding children and young people have been progressed through two ACU course design working groups, under the leadership of Professor Geraldine Castleton, Deputy Dean FEA. The 2016 foundational work of FEA working with FTP, the Institute of Child Protection Studies. (ICPS) and FHS, in conjunction with Catholic Education Melbourne, created a tailored graduate certificate for educational leaders. In 2017 this offering was extended to meet broader needs, through a Provost sponsored curriculum group involving all Faculties, ICPS, Executive Education and LTC. This Group developed a Capability Framework to underpin further ACU safeguarding activities and to support agencies in creating safer cultures. The new programs integrate research with key learning tools and the Group is currently working with the LTC to help drive ACU's modularisation approach. These collaborative efforts (2016 and 2017) have enhanced learning and teaching practices at ACU and demonstrated impact linked to the Mission.

2016

Professor Justin Kemp (Team application), Faculty of Health Sciences

Team members: Dr Stuart Cormack & Dr David Opar

The Master of High Performance Sport (MHPS) was introduced as an original flagship course in ACU's Postgraduate Strategy, with sustained contributions from Professor Justin Kemp, Dr Stuart Cormack and Dr David Opar regarding its design and continued development. This teaching team has maintained oversight of the degree's direction, continual improvement and innovation, thereby ensuring contemporary and engaging curriculum content, assessment strategies and delivery methods, to provide evidence-based and industry-relevant knowledge and skills to its students and graduates. Their approaches to teaching and learning support provide educational and professional development opportunities for both students and staff of the program. To further enhance the student experience, with an aim for job-readiness and/or career progression, this teaching team has grown a network of industry partners, both nationally and internationally, that offers students work integrated experiences and research training within high performance sport organisations. The program has displayed consistently strong and increasing student enrolments. To contribute to ACU's International Postgraduate Strategy, the teaching team is now collaborating with the University of Notre Dame (Indiana) for USA delivery. This degree has diversified ACU's postgraduate offerings and created a brand in High Performance Sport education which is niche, of high quality, and respected by the industry

2015

Dr Val Goodwin (Team Application), Faculty of Health Sciences

Team Members: Ms Rose McMaster, Ms Sandra Hyde, Ms Meghan Appleby (LTC)

Synopsis: Significant contribution to the development, marketing and implementation of curricula and resources for a suite of Postgraduate Mental Health studies, by a team of experienced clinicians, eLearning designer and academics'