

Edinburgh Teaching Award and HEA Fellowships

Background

HEA Fellowships are among the criteria feeding into the TEF. At the moment, the School of Informatics hosts only a very low number of HEA Fellowship holders. which further to our low NSS scores negatively impacts our TEF ranking

Proposed Actions

- Should new members of staff be expected to participate in the Edinburgh Teaching Award, which will automatically result in a HEA Fellowship at the equivalent level? The effort is relatively low (few thousand word essay to be written within 2 years, and a couple of training sessions). Who should participate: all future new hires, this year's hires, or also last year's hires?
- Should existing members of staff with substantial teaching experience be encouraged (and/or rewarded) to directly apply for HEA Fellowships? We have many staff members who would be directly eligible: EUSA Teaching Award nominations (and winning!) count as bonus points. Any publication on learning and teaching aspects will also count. Do does e-learning/teaching experience and experience from curriculum reviews (e.g. for former DoTs for Senior HEA Fellowships). The effort is moderate (one 2500 word essay, plus some shorter experience blogs/case studies based on the review of educational literature).

Impact

A higher number of HEA fellowships would substantially improve our TEF rating, catching up with our Russell group competitors (who have about 20% HEA fellows on average, Edinburgh University has about 11%, Informatics has 1%). The cost would be relatively low and participation in the Edinburgh Teaching Awards could be established as a standard practice without meeting too much resistance (it's standard elsewhere in the UK). Persuading existing staff would be more difficult, but possibly an incentive-based scheme could be used to encourage participation from volunteers.

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