

FAU Teaching Award for Early-Career Researchers 2025

Since 2016, an internal university funding instrument has been in place to acknowledge the special importance of university teaching in the development of early-career academics: *the FAU Teaching Award for Early-Career Researchers*.

Objective

The **FAU Teaching Award** aims to internally recognize outstanding commitment and high-quality teaching while demonstrating that teaching is an equally important responsibility for researchers alongside their research activities. The award highlights examples of excellent teaching, thereby creating incentives for innovation and continuous improvement in teaching.

Good teaching is a driver of innovation. Therefore, this year's FAU Teaching Award will again focus on the "Guidelines for Innovative Teaching at FAU," adopted in 2022. Please consider nominating candidates whose courses particularly stand out for their innovative approaches in line with these guidelines. However, you may also continue to use the guiding questions as a reference when making nominations. Both documents are attached to the call for nominations.

Award Frequency and Prize Money

Each faculty will annually award the internal **FAU Teaching Prize** to one early-career researcher in recognition of their outstanding teaching achievements. In 2025, a total of five prizes, each worth €2,000, will be awarded. The prize money can be used by the awardees' departments to further promote innovative teaching.

Target Group

Early-career researchers include all doctoral candidates, postdocs (up to eight years after completing their doctorate), junior research group leaders (without professorship), and junior professors.

In the interest of equal opportunity, faculties are encouraged to specifically consider outstanding female early-career researchers for nomination.

Procedure

This call for nominations is directed at all students and teaching staff, who are invited to submit proposals to their respective faculty deans of studies.

All deans of study are authorized to submit nominations and oversee the internal selection process within their faculty. Each faculty submits two nominees to the university's executive board, including at least one female candidate. The final selection of one awardee per faculty is made by the university's executive board. Faculties may indicate a preference between their two nominees, but the university's executive board may deviate from this in order to ensure gender balance across faculties.

The nomination process within each faculty must include participation from student representatives (appointed by the Faculty Student Council, FSV) and the faculty's women's representative. Faculties determine whether nominations should go through departments or be submitted directly to the faculty's dean of studies.

Each nomination must include:

Die Nominierungsvorschläge sollen folgendes umfassen:

- A justification based either on the guiding questions or the Guidelines for Innovative Teaching (see attachment).
- A brief and informal outline of the faculty's internal nomination procedure.
- A short and informal statement from both the faculty's student representation and women's representative.

To ensure fairness, all faculty selection committee members must be trained on gender bias issues. The women's representatives can provide support if needed. Self-nominations are not permitted.

The university's executive board will select the final awardee per faculty from the two nominations submitted by each faculty, with input from student representatives.

Deadlines

Faculties must submit their nominations through their faculty's dean of studies **by June 15, 2025**. The submission must include recommendations from both the faculty and the student representatives.

Contact

Nominations should be addressed to Sandra Achten, Speaker to the Vice President for Education.

For faculty-specific inquiries, please contact your faculty dean of studies.

For general questions, please reach out to Sandra Achten at: sandra.achten@fau.de, Tel. 09131/85-71408