

# Celebrating Excellence, Shaping Practice: Aberystwyth University's Exemplary Course Award Programme

Jim Woolley with Lauren Harvey and Mari Dunning

Prifysgol Aberystwyth / Aberystwyth University

[elarning@aber.ac.uk](mailto:elarning@aber.ac.uk)

# Overview

- History of the Exemplary Course Award @ Aberystwyth University
- Application Process
- Panel Assessment Process
- Impact
- Future Developments
- Previous winners:
  - Lauren Harvey, Law and Criminology: Dispute Resolution in Contract and Tort
  - Mari Dunning, English and Creative Writing / Lifelong Learning: Writing Women: Feminism in Poetry and Prose



# Exemplary Course Award... a brief history

- Over 50 courses
- Run once a year
- Launched in 2014
  - Lifelong Learning
  - On-campus
  - Remote and distance learning
  - Welsh language and English language courses
  - Large courses and small courses
  - Every faculty represented



# Applicant Process

- Access the application form
- Complete and self-assess their course:
  - Course Design
  - Interaction and Collaboration
  - Assessment
  - Learner Support
- Submit their application



# Self-assess against criteria

Standard and Categories and Subcategories	Exemplary Standard	Evidenced ✓	Points
Goals and Objectives	1.1 Goals and objectives are clearly written and appropriate for the course.	✓	5
	1.2 Goals and objectives are easily located within the course and visible in a variety of areas (e.g., within the Module Information folder and each individual learning unit).		4
	1.3 Goals and learning outcomes are measurable (for example, learners know what they are expected to do).	✓	4

# Advice given to applicants

- Look at the course from user's perspective – make use of the Student Preview tool
- Quality not quantity
- Check that material is accessible and does not involve too many clicks
- Use release conditions to permit targeted materials
- Emphasis is on the whole design of the course



# Support

- Training sessions
  - E-learning Excellence:
    - Submitting an Exemplary Course Award
    - Exemplary Course Design
    - Exemplary Interaction and Collaboration
    - Exemplary Assessment Design
    - Exemplary Learner Support
  - Previous winners sharing experience and courses
  - Request Illuminate Reports
  - Use Analytics and Data to inform review: Course Progress Reports
  - Module MOT



# Identify Exemplary Practices

**What are the three stand-out practices in your course and why are they exemplary (maximum of 1000 words OR an 8 minute Panopto recording with narration, highlighting the exemplary practices of the course)?**

**These are the top three items you wish to highlight for reviewers to consider as exemplary practices to share with the broader University community.**

[Put your three stand-out practices here OR paste a link to your Panopto recording]



# Exemplary Practice Examples

- Course content accessibility
- In-class exercises
- Structured and consistent design
- Learner support and communication
- Active and scenario-based learning
- Authentic assessment design, preparation and guidance



# Assessment Process

- Copy of Course created
- Panel of experts enrolled as student
- Panel assess the course against the criteria
- Panel meet to deliberate:
  - Exemplary Course Award Winner
  - Highly Commended
  - Commended
- Recommendations for improvement
- Comments and feedback compiled



# Impact

- Benefits for applicants
- Benefits for panel members
- External reports
- Case Studies
- Updates to course templates
- What does good look like?
- How can I achieve this?



# Celebrating Success

- Graduation
- University Celebration Events
- Education and Student Experience Conferences
- Local news and press
- Open / Visit Days – showcases
- Departmental publicity



# Changes to processes

- Reduction in criteria
- Removal of self-scoring
- Reduction in word count for exemplary practices
- Updates to our required minimum presence
- 70% Ally Score for all courses
- 85% Ally Score for Exemplary Course Award



# Developments for the Future

- Student voice aspect
- Smaller awards based on the criteria
- Encourage applications to Blackboard's ECP Programme



# Tips for successful implementation

- Institutional buy-in
- Outlining the benefits to individuals, course teams, and department
- Build into business as usual
- Draw on examples and best practice



# Demonstrations

- Lauren Harvey, Law and Criminology: *Dispute Resolution in Contract and Tort*
- Mari Dunning, English and Creative Writing / Lifelong Learning: *Writing Women: Feminism in Poetry and Prose*





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- Further information: [Exemplary Course Award : Information Services , Aberystwyth University](#)
- Contact [elarning@aber.ac.uk](mailto:elarning@aber.ac.uk)