

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **European Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities**

#### **Call for Applications 2013-2014**

Central European University is pleased to announce the third annual European Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities. This pioneering award, first announced in 2011 on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Central European University, honors academics in the social sciences and humanities who teach at higher education institutions in countries of the European Higher Education Area.

With both teaching and research at the core of its mission, Central European University is committed to promoting excellence in teaching and the advancement of the social sciences and humanities. The European Award for Excellence in Teaching underscores this commitment, and it aims further to contribute to recent efforts in higher education on the European level that focus on the importance of teaching and learning.

Since the inauguration of the award, faculty members from more than fifteen European countries, representing a wide range of academic disciplines, have been candidates for the award. An impressive group of finalists and high interest in the project have confirmed the significance and need for continued efforts in this area. We are extremely pleased, therefore, to announce the third annual European Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

#### **Background of the Award**

The original idea to initiate such an award stemmed from an observation that in recent years a strong emphasis has been placed at the European level on research in higher education. Research-related activities and achievements have attracted particular attention and recognition, as illustrated by the creation of European funding programs and awards for research. This emphasis has been particularly severe in the social sciences and humanities. It was reflected, moreover, in the absence for the most part, of major systematic initiatives at the European level to recognize the value of teaching.

Recently, however, there have been strong indications that policy makers in Europe are acknowledging that, in conjunction with research, teaching in support of student inquiry and

problem-solving within and across disciplines, general education, and professional training at the higher education level have an important role to play in a “knowledge society.”

Although a number of universities offer their own teaching awards and various professional and other associations offer prizes within subject areas, prior to the establishment of the European Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities there appeared to be no significant pan-European rewards for teaching excellence in higher education in the social sciences and humanities. The European Award was designed to address this need: it is intended both to promote better teaching and to enhance recognition of the importance of teaching throughout Europe.

### **Selection Criteria for the European Award for Excellence in Teaching**

All candidates must have an outstanding overall teaching record. In addition, candidates must show exemplary experience in one or more of these practices:

- applying innovative teaching methods;
- combining theory and practice, relevance and scholarly excellence;
- using research elements to achieve excellence in teaching;
- applying problem-based/problem-oriented teaching;
- achievements in encouragement of critical thinking;
- sustained commitment to teaching excellence, rather than one-off achievements.

Applications from candidates working with students from less affluent or disadvantaged social backgrounds are particularly welcome.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible, a candidate must be:

- an academic instructor of any rank in the Social Sciences and/or Humanities;
- currently teaching at a higher education institution in a member country of the European Higher Education Area (<http://www.ehea.info/members.aspx>).

Candidates considered in previous years are welcome to apply for this year’s Award.

Current and former faculty members of Central European University are not eligible.

All evidence in support of the applications will be submitted to Central European University, Center for Teaching and Learning, and collected in two stages.

## Application and Selection Process

### Faculty Members -- How to Apply for the Award:

1) In the first stage, faculty members wishing to apply must submit the following documents no later than **January 20, 2014**. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. All submitted documents must be in English.

- A detailed personal statement written by the candidate about their teaching, including concrete examples of what they have accomplished or learned in their teaching, their approaches to teaching or philosophy of teaching, and a discussion of what their goals are for their teaching in the future (1500 – 2000 words);
- the candidate's curriculum vitae (or resume) and candidate's contact information;
- two letters of support: one from a colleague who is familiar with the candidate's teaching record; and one from a former student (letters from former students should describe the teacher's influence on them);
- contact information for the higher education institution, including a staff member who would be able to assist in providing additional information.

### Nominating a Candidate:

- In the case of nominations, a detailed letter in support of the nomination by the nominator should accompany the above items.

NOTE: Individual faculty members are encouraged to apply directly to CEU for consideration for the third annual European Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities. However, nominations by others will be accepted as follows:

- Nominations will be accepted by individual members of higher education institutions in member countries of the European Higher Education Area ;
- administrators in such educational institutions;
- faculty colleagues;
- external stakeholders such as representatives of employers or other organizations;
- current or former students.

2) In the second stage of the selection process, the CEU Center for Teaching and Learning will contact selected candidates and the higher education institution where they teach to obtain additional information in support of the application.

Additional supporting evidence requested in the second stage may include:

- an expanded narrative from the candidate explaining how his/her teaching has made a difference, accompanied by any relevant documents;
- testimonials from former and/or current students, colleagues, university administrators, or others who have firsthand knowledge of the candidate's teaching achievements;
- formal teaching performance documents such as internal evaluation reports (in the case of candidates whose institutions conduct such evaluations);
- a written and/or audiovisual portfolio demonstrating "excellence in teaching" and corresponding impact on students.

PLEASE NOTE: These or other additional materials **should NOT be submitted during the first stage of the application process.** Candidates will receive a written request for any additional materials, if required.

The selection process will be coordinated by the CEU Center for Teaching and Learning which will serve as the Secretariat. Candidates will be evaluated by a five-member selection committee drawn from higher education institutions worldwide.

### **Timeframe**

1. Applications for the European Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities will be accepted until **January 20, 2014**. Applications should be sent electronically to: **TeachingAward@ceu.hu**

*Or by post to:*

Attn: European Award for Excellence in Teaching  
Central European University  
Center for Teaching and Learning  
Nádor u. 15, Budapest  
1051 Hungary

The selection process will be completed by June, 2014. The award competition is intended to be conducted annually.

2. The CEU Center for Teaching and Learning will send an email to acknowledge receipt of the application or nomination within two weeks of the submission.

3. The CEU Center for Teaching and Learning will contact the candidate and the relevant higher education institution for additional information.
4. The award winner will be notified by June, 2014, after the selection committee's final meeting.
5. Once the winner has accepted her/his award, the competition results will be shared with all the candidates via email.
6. The winner is expected to participate in the public recognition of the award.
7. The award will be presented at a ceremony coordinated with the winner. The presentation of the award usually coincides with CEU's academic year opening ceremony in September.

### **European Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities**

The award winner will receive a prize of 5,000 EUR. The award winner will also be invited to give a talk and to participate in award-related events at Central European University, subject to his/her availability. The prize is coordinated by Central European University. The European Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences and Humanities has been supported since its founding by a gift from an anonymous donor "in memory of Ilona Diener."

For more information about the award and for the electronic version of the Call for Applications please visit the website of the CEU Center for Teaching and Learning <https://ctl.ceu.hu/teaching-award> or contact [TeachingAward@ceu.hu](mailto:TeachingAward@ceu.hu).