



ANU EDUCATIONAL FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

Guide for Referees – Senior Fellowship (SFHEA)

Thank you for supporting an applicant for Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA) through the HEA-accredited ANU Educational Fellowship.

The award of HEA Senior Fellowship is based on peer recognition of professional practice, and you are being asked to support this application as a valued peer who has expertise in teaching and learning in Higher Education (HE). Senior Fellowship of the HEA is an advanced category of professional recognition, and recognises sustained effectiveness and academic leadership in teaching and enhancing the learning experience. This is combined with scholarship, educational research and other professional activities, including working with others through mentoring, support, and/or coordination.

Typically, applicants for SFHEA include:

- Highly experienced academics (full-time, part-time or sessional) with significant educational experience and responsibilities at AQF6 and above, such as leading/convening courses or programs; managing teams of tutors or academic peers; discipline-, School-, College- or institution-based educational leadership roles and responsibilities;
- Highly experienced academic or professional staff who support academic development and/or student learning (e.g. learning technologist, educational designer, librarian, technician in a teaching laboratory, or provider of learning support through academic skills or student services, senior peer-assisted learning mentors);
- Research-intensive academics with significant experience and responsibilities associated with HDR supervision and mentoring in teaching and learning and/or research-focused teaching programs.

Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy

To be recognised as a Senior Fellow of the HEA, applicants must meet Descriptor 3 of the UK Professional Standards Framework ([UKPSF](#)).

This means they must demonstrate in a written reflective narrative:

- Successful engagement across all five of the UKPSF Areas of Activity and relevant practices (A1-A5)
- Understanding and application of Core Knowledge related to teaching and learning (K1-K6) including a deep understanding of appropriate methods for teaching and learning in their discipline, and in general
- Commitment to all the Professional Values being part of their practice (V1-V4)
- Successful and significant involvement in continuing professional development related to teaching, learning and assessment responsibilities, and the incorporation of this into practice
- A highly integrated approach to academic practice that is clearly informed by professional practice, relevant research, and/or scholarship related to teaching
- Substantive and effective engagement with peers in relation to teaching and learning through successful coordination, supervision, management and/or mentoring.

Referee report

The EFS looks to referees to authenticate as far as possible, the educational practice described in a fellowship application.

- For a Senior Fellowship application, two referees are asked to provide reports which will be used to confirm that the application presents a fair and accurate reflection of the applicant's HE practice. It is expected that the referee has read the application or a recent draft, before writing the reference. Please note that the referee report is not the same as a job reference.
- The referee is expected to have current or recent experience of working in Higher Education, and may hold an HEA Fellowship
- The referee should have first-hand knowledge of the applicant's HE professional practice and be in a position to comment on and substantiate the applicant's record of effectiveness within the context in which they teach and/or support learning. If the referee has been involved in peer observation of the applicant's teaching and/or support of learning, please draw on examples from this
- The referee should comment on any good or innovative practice and/or contribution to developments by the applicant in teaching and/or supporting learning within their discipline as appropriate; and their perspective on the practical examples provided within the application to illustrate the Fellowship requirements
- The referee should be able to confirm that the applicant has represented their practice accurately and provide their opinion that they demonstrate the requirements Descriptor 3 criteria of the [UK Professional Standards Framework](#)

Please complete the SFHEA Referee Report Form. Save it as a PDF and send it to the applicant to include in their application.

If you would rather send the reference directly to EFS, or feel the applicant is not yet ready to apply for FHEA and would like to talk to us about this, please contact us: efs@anu.edu.au