Statute of the University of Tartu best teaching staff award

Based on clause 4 of the Regulations for Giving Recognition, adopted by the University of Tartu senate regulation no. 5 of 27 April 2012 and amended by regulation no. 30 of 18 December 2015, I approve the Statute of the University of Tartu best teaching staff award.

1. The University of Tartu best teaching staff award is granted every academic year to recognise employees of the University of Tartu who taught degree programmes (‘teaching staff’) in the previous academic year in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Science and Technology and Faculty of Medicine.

2. The best teaching staff award is a specially designed layered silver badge with a polished top layer and textured visible edges of the descending layers. The polished part of the badge bears an inscription “Tartu Ülikooli õppejõud” (“Member of teaching staff of the University of Tartu”) and the academic year; the recipient’s name is engraved on the reverse side.

3. In addition to the badge, a recipient of the best teaching staff award also receives a bonus, the amount of which is determined for each academic year by the rector.

4. The best teaching staff award is granted to recognise one teaching staff member in each faculty for outstanding teaching skills in the previous academic year. A member of teaching staff may be recognised with the best teaching staff award in more than one faculty.

5. Outstanding teaching skills are evaluated according to the good practice of teaching at the University of Tartu.

6. A reasoned proposal to recognise a teaching staff member with the best teaching staff award may be submitted jointly by five students, indicating their relationship with the teaching staff member. The proposals can be submitted from 1 to 30 April in the form and following the procedure established by the Executive Board of the Student Council.

7. The Student Council of each faculty chooses from the proposals the five best teaching staff members of their faculty. In each faculty an evaluation committee, which is formed of at least eight student members considering that students of all study levels and all faculties are represented (“committee”), elects the recipient of the best teaching staff award from among the five nominees.

8. The best teaching staff award may not be granted to the same person in two consecutive academic years.

9. The committee submits the names of the recipients of the best teaching staff award to the vice rector for academic affairs at least one month before the award is to be presented.

10. The grant of the best teaching staff award is approved by the directive of the vice rector for academic affairs.

11. Recipients of the best teaching staff award are announced and awards are presented on the anniversary of Estonia’s national university.
12. The names of recipients of the best teaching staff award are recorded in a book of honour, which is kept by the academic secretary.

13. The names of the five best teaching staff members elected pursuant to clause 7 in each faculty are published in the university’s magazine “Universitas Tartuensis” and on the university website.

13¹. In 2020, the proposals specified in clause 6 of this statute can be submitted from 1 April to 20 September. [effective as of 11 May 2020]

14. The Statute of the University of Tartu Best Teaching Staff Award, approved by rector’s decree no. 21 of 6 July 2012 and amended by decree no. 39 of 27 November 2014 and decree no. 53 of 14 October 2016, is hereby repealed.

15. The decree takes effect on 1 January 2019.