

Criteria and procedure Geosciences Teacher Awards 2025

The Faculty of Geosciences annually awards two teacher awards prizes to teachers who have demonstrated exceptional or outstanding educational achievements.

The teaching awards are presented in two categories: the Outstanding Teacher Award and the Teacher Talent Award. The Outstanding Teacher Award is meant for teachers with more than five years' experience in academic teaching, while the Teacher Talent Award is meant for teachers with a maximum of five years' experience in academic teaching.

The four student associations, [Helix](#), [Storm](#), [U.A.V.](#), and [V.U.G.S.](#), nominate candidates by compiling portfolios for their nominees. A jury composed of teachers and students from the Faculty of Geosciences selects the winners.

The procedure for the Geosciences Teacher Awards matches, where possible, the procedure for the [Utrecht University's Outstanding Teacher Award and Teacher Talent Award](#). This document provides additional information that only applies to our faculty's nomination procedure and awards.

After the dates for the university-wide teacher awards are published in September, the information in this document will also be updated.

If you have any questions or are looking for further information, please contact the secretary of the jury, [Robert van Wijk](#).

Conditions for nomination

The same conditions apply as for the university Teacher Awards, with the following additional condition:

- The nominee must be affiliated with the Faculty of Geosciences.

Previous winners of the GEO Teacher Award or GEO Teacher Talent Award may be nominated again if they meet the other conditions: the faculty award can be granted multiple times to the same individual.

Winners of one or more of the university Teacher Awards can no longer be nominated for the corresponding faculty award.

The criteria

The criteria are identical to the criteria for the University's Outstanding Teacher of the Year and Teacher Talent of the Year awards.

In evaluating the criteria, the context of a teacher's educational institute can be taken into account, with a specific teaching performance within a particular institute weighing more or less heavily depending on the circumstances.

In the case of tied scores on the criteria, the jury may choose to use as a tiebreaker that the winner of the Outstanding Teacher Award and the Teacher Talent Award come from different educational institutes. Additionally, the jury keeps in mind whether and how recently a candidate has previously won a faculty teacher award.

The prizes

Both awards consist of a certificate and a cash prize of €1,500, provided as a material budget that can be spent on work-related matters such as a study trip or books. Additionally, the winners are invited to share insights about their teaching at the faculty's New Year's breakfast.

The jury

Composition

The jury for the Geosciences Teacher Awards consists of two students and six teachers. The teachers include previous winners and nominees of the awards, with each educational institute represented by two persons. The student members come from the Faculty Council, preferably from programmes organized by different educational institutes.

The teacher members have a term of three years with the possibility of extension. A jury member serves in this role on behalf of the faculty, not representing their own department. An assessing jury member cannot be part of the (educational) management.

When a jury member is nominated for a specific award, they withdraw from the evaluation for that award.

The jury is chaired by the Vice-Dean of Education, who does not assess the content of the portfolios. The secretary to the jury is Robert van Wijk from Educational Policy and Student Affairs.

The procedure

For the faculty Teacher Awards, there is only a single selection round. The nominated instructors automatically become the short-listed nominees. This is a major difference from the procedure of the university teacher awards.

Period	Activity
September	Publication criteria, format and procedure GEO Teachers Awards
Wednesday 9 October 2024, 16:00	Information meeting study associations
September/October	Compiling and submitting portfolios
Friday 15 November 2024, 12.00 uur (noon)	Submission deadline portfolios
Week of 18 November	Announcement nominated teachers
Second half of December	Announcement winners and award ceremony
January 2025	Interview winners during New Year's breakfast

Start procedure

In September, the procedure, criteria, and format for the portfolio for the Geosciences Teacher Awards will be published. The four study associations of Geosciences will receive an email with an invitation to submit portfolios. The Directors of Education will also be notified of this call for nominees.

Information meeting

On Wednesday 9 October 2024, 16:00 – 17:00h, the jury organizes an information meeting for study associations about compiling the portfolios.

Compiling the portfolio

The nomination portfolio can be submitted in the same format as the university's Teaching Awards.

The submission deadline is the same as for the university's Teacher Awards, namely Friday 15 November, 12:00 (noon). The nomination must be submitted electronically, in a single PDF file via email to docentprijs.geo@uu.nl. Mention the name of the teacher, category (Outstanding Teacher Award / Teacher Talent Award) and study association in the subject line. All nominations will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Late or incomplete portfolios will not be considered. Keep in mind that the date on which the portfolio is submitted digitally, is the decisive submission date.

Selection of winners

Before the jury meets, each portfolio is assessed individually by each jury member. For each criterium, a jury member will award a score. A jury member will abstain when a candidate is a direct colleague from the same degree programme. Per award one winner will be selected. A jury report will be compiled, which will contain the motivation for the choice made by the jury.

Announcement and award ceremony

In the second half of December, the winners will be announced during a gathering at the VMA. This event is mainly intended for the students who contributed to the nomination (i.e., the student associations), the faculty board, and the nominated teachers. The jury report will be presented during this gathering.

Additionally, the winners will be invited to share insights about their teaching during the faculty's New Year's breakfast in January. This event is mainly intended for faculty staff.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the criteria and procedure of the Geosciences Teacher Awards, please contact the secretary to the jury, Robert van Wijk, at: docentprijs.geo@uu.nl.