

Categories for Academic Year 2023/24

Courses and modules taught in Winter Semester 2023/24 and Summer Semester 2024 can be nominated in the following categories:

Best Course

- 1) How did the instructor(s) communicate teaching and learning objectives and how did they ensure these objectives were achieved?
- 2) In what way were teaching, learning and exams linked and related to the content of the course?
- 3) In what way did the course excel? Were highly innovative concepts or activities used in class?
- 4) How was research integrated with the coursework?
- 5) How was discipline-specific knowledge conveyed?
- 6) How was the practical and interdisciplinary character of class achieved (practical exercises, real life scenarios, acquisition of relevant skills)?
- 7) How did the course prepare students for future professional challenges?
- 8) In what way were current societal issues addressed?

Research-Based Learning

- 1) In what way was research integrated with the coursework?
Which one of the following applies?
 - Students developed their own research questions. They could bring in their own ideas and topics.
 - Instructors provided guidance to students during their research process.
 - Instructors provided constructive feedback.
 - Instructors offered potential solutions for problems along the way.
 - Instructors provided assistance with evaluation and interpretation of results.
- 2) How were key research methods introduced?
- 3) How did the course promote independent study and critical reflection of the research process (including methods, results, and ethics)?
- 4) How were students encouraged to actively and independently try out and practice the use of research methods?
- 5) How and when did the instructor provide feedback to students (individually or generally, in what form)? In what way did this feedback facilitate students' learning, growth, and development? How did this impact manifest in other areas, or, for instance, in subsequent courses?

What are some characteristics of research-based learning and learning through research?

- Research and various research activities are integrated with the coursework.
- Students get acquainted with various phases, formats and methods of academic research and have the chance to go through the entire research process.
- The goal is to independently acquire knowledge that is new for students and ideally can be transferred to others.
- The learning process designed in this way is characterized by students' independence in conducting research.
- As part of such process, students learn independently and through self-directed study.
- Possible practical scenario: students work mostly independently – with minimal assistance by the instructor – on their own project, which goes through most (but preferably all) phases of the research cycle.
- Students are encouraged to take a critical look at and discuss their research methodology, findings, ethics and/or academic theories.

Designing learning spaces

- 1) What characterised the successful design of the learning space in this course? What elements of the courses' learning space design (whether it was face-to-face, virtual or hybrid) were particularly conducive to learning?

Physical equipment and digital elements can be taken into account, as well as atmosphere and the sense of well-being, or the space's location.

- 2) Did the (spatial) design open up new opportunities for learning and provide flexible support for learning activities?
- 3) How did the design encourage interaction or feedback between the teacher(s) and the students or among the students themselves?
- 4) Did you have a sense of acceptance, safety and recognition as a student with your (individual) needs and identities? Did the design of the learning space provide both openness and opportunities to retreat? How was this framework of safety developed in the course?
- 5) As a student, did you have the opportunity to participate in the design of the space or contribute your ideas to how the space can look and function? If so, how? Through your own initiative or proposed alternatives?