One University’s Experience of Embedding the Australian University Teaching Criteria and Standards Framework

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The Australian University Teaching Criteria and Standards (AUTCAS) project was designed to support educational leaders effect cultural change in attitudes to the work of teaching academics. The primary purpose of the project was to synthesise research and current practice in universities as a foundation for the development of a teaching criteria framework integrating principles and evidence of good teaching practice which can be implemented at the institutional, faculty and individual staff level across Australian universities. The framework aligns with promotional levels for academic staff. This initiative addresses the place of teaching in the academic profession at a time of significant change in the sector.

This poster provides an overview of the AUTCAS project and describes how one university has integrated the framework into its policy and practices. In 2013, Curtin University established an ambitious teaching and learning plan designed to enhance the student experience. As part of the plan, Curtin University developed its Teaching Excellence framework. The AUTCAS project provided a carefully researched and evidence based model against which Curtin University was able to benchmark and refine its Teaching Excellence framework thereby broadening and deepening the understanding of what constitutes good teaching in higher education at different levels across the university. The AUTCAS framework provided timely and critical input into the Teaching Excellence at Curtin criteria which was edited and contextualised to reflect the University’s individual character. Teaching Excellence at Curtin is now integral to evidencing good teaching and is aligned to role statements for teaching focused, clinical teaching and teaching-research, academic positions.