

Law Teacher of the Year example nomination

Name of Nominee

James White

Position

Senior Lecturer Business Law

Institution

Longshire University

Subjects taught

Contract and business law

Email: j.white@longshire.ac.uk

All contact details
are correctly
completed

Brief reasons for nomination – please ensure you address the criteria for the award clearly:

- **An active interest in and development of different learning and teaching techniques and educational approaches including the creation of environments conducive to learning**

James's learning objectives for lectures and seminars are always very clearly spelt out, creating a structured and focused learning environment. Hypothetical scenarios are used to draw out relevant legal and extra-legal issues. Discussion is encouraged; all questions are dealt with in a positive manner.

Each criterion should be
addressed in no more
than 400 words

James complements his classroom based teaching with web-based learning. He makes full use of the university's virtual learning environment, to which he uploads quizzes, case studies, articles and links, as well as examples to enable students to engage in formative self-assessment. He has recorded podcasts to explain the general principles and stimulate students to think, discuss, and approach the core material in alternative ways.

James is alert to the benefits of feedback and evaluation (from students and colleagues) on his teaching, the learning experience and his own professional development. He is willing to adapt his methods to implement what the feedback tells him. James is in regular touch with teaching colleagues outside of the law school and is always alert to new opportunities to enhance the learning experience; he will readily share best practice and be ready to try something new with the law students that has worked well in another department.

"I found James to be an excellent lecturer, the way he teaches makes the students in the lecture hall feel as though they had played an active part in their own

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learning by interacting and participating. He lectures with a clarity and enthusiasm that captures the interest of all the students.”

- **Imagination and/or creativity in relation to the design of learning experience for students based on an understanding of students’ different learning requirements**

James is able to design learning experiences that emphasize different learning requirements to ensure that every student can achieve the same expected learning outcomes, regardless of their different cultural and national backgrounds as well as different personalities. James takes the time to identify his students’ interests and is able to signpost them towards modules, and extra-curricular activities beneficial to their degree and desired careers.

The lectures and seminars combine individual participation, group discussions, tutorials and individual and group written work, to allow students with different abilities to contribute.

Non-law students from the business school are supplied with his own detailed guidance on how to write legal essays and read cases; James is keen to bridge the gaps in legal knowledge between law and non-law students.

“James is always ready to give individual advice and help where needed, his door is rarely closed and he’ll do his best to give you time to resolve any issues. He has provided me with some great advice about careers after university.”

- **Effective communication skills that engage students in the learning experience**

James is an excellent communicator, and not just in the way he delivers his face to face lectures. He utilises a range of teaching methods to communicate facts, information and modes of thinking has an array of outstanding presentation tools and visual aids; he uses role-play and real-life business situations to exemplify what is being studied.

James is an advocate of e-learning in legal teaching and communicates to his students via the virtual learning environment (see above note on podcasts etc). He is a bit of an e-learning champion within the university and has inspired many teachers to enhance their teaching practice and communication skills by his efforts.



Brief student comments
help the judges form a
full picture

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James provides a considerable amount of feedback to students over the course of the modules and even after the course had finished. It is perhaps a measure of James's character that he took the trouble to email all students with positive comments made by the external examiner about their collective performance.

James is always keen to be involved in the law school open days, he enjoys speaking to new and prospective students and his delivery style and ways of communicating are ideal in engaging a new audience.

- **Involvement in scholarly activities that have influenced and enhanced learning both of students and colleagues**

James has long demonstrated a sustained commitment to the development, and extension of best practice within the University as a whole. He has authored several case studies for University's Development and Training Centre.

James is actively involved in legal research related to his subjects as well as legal education. In tandem with his teaching, James is closely involved in a range of scholarly activities – for example, he is a regular contributor to *Commercial Law Journal* and *Contract Review Monthly*, both academic journals that invite contributions from legal scholars and academics.

James has conducted an external study on the use of information technology for law teaching and online assessment in particular. His interest has been renewed with the popularisation of virtual environments, and James is currently carrying out research on the possibilities offered by Web 2, for law teaching in general and assessment in particular. A paper will be submitted soon for consideration to a *Technology Education Review*.

Input from academic colleagues may help to inform this section of the nomination, especially if a student is writing the nomination

Full contact details of sponsors are required

Sponsor 1 name

Daphne Booker

Relationship to nominee

colleague

Email: d.booker@longshire.ac.uk

Sponsor 2 name

Craig Jones

Relationship to nominee

student

Email: craig.jones@hotmail.com

The teacher has been informed of this nomination

YES

The Head of Department has agreed to this nomination going forward YES

It is vital to get consent from the teacher and Head of Department before submitting the nomination