

Procedure Teacher of the Year

Every year the University Fund Wageningen hands out the Teacher of the Year Award. A prize that is a nice recognition of the efforts of teachers. Besides that it is a good inspiration and the prize stresses the importance of good education and the value of high-quality teachers. The prize is a student prize, handed out to the winner chosen by students.

Jury

At the start of the procedure, a vacancy is spread amongst students for the position of member of the jury. Everyone can apply for the position, on the condition that they are available for the period during the election and the interview with the longlist nominees. The final jury will be formed on the basis of capacities and with the fairest possible distribution amongst the different domains of WUR.

Elections

In autumn elections are organized through the system of WebElect, which is also used for other elections at WUR. The promotion is done by the jury and next to that digital means are used with help of the University fund.

Candidates

The electoral list consists of 250 teachers. This are the teachers that in the academic year before scored highest in their course evaluations. Teachers are invited to update their profile as candidate with information and a picture.

Voters

All students of their second year and up at Wageningen University receive a personal invitation to vote. They can vote for a maximum of three favourite teachers or vote blanc.

Longlist

On the basis of all votes, two rankings are made. The first is made on basis of the % of votes in relation to the number of course registrations in the previous academic year. The second ranking is on the basis of the % of votes in relation to the total number of votes. The sum of these two rankings gives the 15 people with the highest rank, who are automatically chosen for the longlist. The exact number of teachers on the longlist can differ in the case of an ex aequo in ranking.

With each of the teachers on the longlist an interview with the student jury is scheduled. During this interview they are talking about the approach to education by the teacher. Criteria are, next to didactical and teaching qualities and method, also the level of knowledge of teachers, the enthusiasm for their field of expertise, their involvement in educational innovation and their general commitment to teach students. The questions differ per year, an indication of the questions of the past year can be found on the website.

The interviews are never taken by students who have followed courses with the teacher to be interviewed. Next to that, interviews are recorded and fully transcribed so all members not present during the interview get an idea of the tone of the interview and the content. Students are also asked to share their personal opinion on teachers with the jury.

Shortlist

After all the interviews have been taken, the jury comes together to discuss their preferences. During this meeting first the overall highest scoring teachers on all criteria are selected. Next the jury decided on the interviews and specific element which teachers will be on the shortlist. These teachers are announced.

Winner

During the final ceremony, the shortlist teachers are thanked and the jury explains why they were put on the shortlist. Finally it is announced who wins the Teacher of the Year Award.