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## Summary

MASE annually gives a Distinguished Teaching Award in the field of science education. The award is designed to give recognition to current teachers who are classroom teachers at the primary, secondary and post-secondary levels and who have made extraordinary contributions to the field of science education in Malta.

### Eligibility

This award is open to MASE members who have at least 2 years of teaching experience. Non-MASE members need to be nominated (see below).

### Criteria for Judging

Excellence in teaching that reflects the standards set by the National Minimum Curriculum is the main criterion for selection of applicants. The criteria to be considered by the judging committee are:

- Effective planning skills;
- Presentation skills;
- Ability to motivate and challenge students;
- Professional contribution in science education (e.g. publications, presentations, activities);
- Participation in professional growth activities, leadership roles, and involvement at professional meetings.

### Award Submission Requirements

It is the applicant's responsibility to assemble an application packet that must include:

- A one-page covering letter on an official letterhead, that includes a statement and signature by the nominee's College Principal, Education Officer, or Head of School. This statement should also list the subject(s) and grade level(s) taught.
- A completed application form (provided) signed by the nominee (and nominator if the nominee is not a MASE member).
- An abstract of no more than 250 words describing the nominee's distinguished teaching and contribution to the field of science education.

- A narrative report and sample of work describing the nominee's extraordinary science teaching and contribution to the improvement of science education in Malta. This narrative must be signed by a supervisor who has observed the nominee's work throughout.

The report should include (where applicable) evidence of:

- > Effective planning skills (e.g. goals and objectives at the correct level of difficulty, lesson/activity plans);
  - > Reaching the objective of the activity, communication of the activity's purpose, appropriate instructional input and uses of a range of educational tools;
  - > How the activity motivates the students, and how it relates instruction to students interest and knowledge;
  - > The teacher's proficiency in science education;
  - > The teacher's participation in professional growth activities, and leadership and how this contributes to improvement in science education.
  - > Any Professional contribution in science education (e.g. publications, presentations, activities);
- Two letters of support from individuals or groups who are familiar with the applicant's work. Letters should not exceed one A4 page and must accompany the application packet. Letters sent separately will not be considered. Ensure that letters are dated and signed accordingly. Letters should be written for and refer to applicant's strengths, accomplishments, and the highlights of his/her teaching or administration methods and experiences that directly connect to the application.
  - A curriculum vitae, not exceeding five pages, that includes a brief description of the nominee's teaching experience and any previous awards and/or recognitions.

Upon receipt, applications become property of MASE. Applications will not be returned to applicants. Late applications will not be accepted. All material must be in one envelope. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The judging committee reserves the right to invite the nominee for an interview.

- Teachers can apply as a group for this award.
- Closing date for submission of applications is **31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012**. Late applications will not be considered.
- Prizes: MASE Distinguished Science Teaching Award Trophy will be given during an award giving ceremony. The winner will then have the possibility of visiting the Edinburgh Science Festival which is going to

held in March/April 2012, flights and accomodation paid for. A gift voucher for Scientific Equipment for the School of the participant will also be offered.