

# Fellowship

## Supporting Statement Template

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|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Your Name                                                  | Catherine Brown                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Institution/organisation/other                             | WISA UWTSO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Job Title                                                  | Programme Manager for Design Crafts & MA Contemporary Dialogues Portfolio.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Email address                                              | Catherine.brown@uwtsd.ac.uk                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Your Fellowship Status (if appropriate)                    | HEA Fellow                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Relationship to Applicant                                  | Work Colleague                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| How long have you worked with the applicant (insert dates) | 2 years (since 2021)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Declaration                                                | <p>In submitting your supporting statement, you are confirming that the applicant's submission relates to their higher education professional practice and that your statement is your own work and has been written specifically for this applicant. If the professional integrity of the supporting statement is in question it will not be accepted.</p> <p>I confirm that I have read and agree with the declaration above.</p>  |

## Supporting Statement

Please provide your statement to support the applicant's submission for Fellow in the following section. You are required to comment on the applicant's recent higher education practice, providing examples to support your statement wherever possible.

In completing this supporting statement you are confirming that you have read the Guidance for referees. In addition to Descriptor 2 criteria, as a guide, it is important that you comment on the following in your supporting statement:

- your own experience of the applicant's recent HE practice;
- if you have been involved in peer observation of the applicant's teaching and/or support of learning, please draw on examples from this;
- any good or innovative practice and/or contribution to developments by the applicant in teaching and/or supporting learning within his/her discipline as appropriate;
- your perspective on the practical examples provided within the application to illustrate the requirements of Fellow.

Two sides of A4 will normally be sufficient for this category of Fellowship.

Within the time I have known Yolanda she has been extremely professional and organised and has become, over the last few years a reliable and useful member of staff to work with in the Design Crafts team.

Whilst observing Yolander, not only in her teaching but also in her interaction with staff and students in the planning and organisation of lessons, it is clear that she has not only excellent professional skills but also the ability to understand and deal with sensitive issues. An example of this, was her ability to work with a difficult student experiencing mental health and illness issues working within her class. Once briefed on this, Yolanda was able to work sensitively with the student and differentiate her lesson in line with the student's individual needs. This required a confidence yet sensitive approach and I was extremely impressed at Yonlanda's approach to a difficult situation for a new teacher.

Yolanda is a very proactive and organised person. She not only has excellent lesson plans, but always ensures that digital studios are booked and all equipment is working and prepared. She is popular with both staff and students and has very good interpersonal skills.

Yolanda has also attended study trips with the staff and students and enjoyed the different experiences of sharing art & design inspiration and influence from such events. Within this study visit she was able to draw students attention to the way that digital software was instrumental in the construction of examples of high end craft at the 'Collect' exhibition, this contextualised her lessons demonstrating that her teaching extends beyond the classroom experience.

She works well with the staff team, alongside both academic staff and technical demonstrators. Over the past 2 years, she has developed good relationships with everyone she works with, and is an enthusiastic member of the team. This sharing of knowledge and collaboration has not only encouraged students, but also staff to further

their skills in the digital software required to 3D print. She has been very inspirational in the development of digital application in craft within our department and this is recognised within the staff team and student cohort.

Yolanda's teaching of CAD and digital software is excellent. She has excellent knowledge and skills in this area and she has managed to build the student's confidence in using these digital tools, by breakingdown tasks, into simplified activities and then encouraging them to practice and explore the software.

Her organised and methodical approach has worked well and has enabled the students to build their skills in this steady way.

Yolanda has a very steady and calm approach to teaching, her personality allows of enthusiastic, yet balanced approach to learning and this has been instrumental in her delivery.

It is very noticeable that several of the student's that would have been afraid of these digital tasks are now very confident and fluent in their abilities to 3D print their work. This is mentioned in Yolanda's statement, but I would like to highlight, how impactful her teaching has been in building the student's confidence.

The students now feel comfortable to create their own design files and also to approach the other 3D print technicians with a sound knowledge of what is required and there is a noticeable different to their portfolio's of work.

As Yolanda has mentioned within her statement, her rationale and reasons for tailoring her lessons towards the development of digital application within the specialism of Design Crafts was exactly what was required within the programme. She immediately understood the ethos of the programme and the requirements of students needing to work between digital visualisations and the construction of three-dimensional objects through this. Her lessons were contextualised in line with the ethos of the Design Crafts programme and her statement describes this process in detail showing Yolanda's clear objectives of her intentions to deliver the 'broken down' simplified tasks within her digital teaching and the wider impact this would have over a set period of time.

To this end, Yolanda has fulfilled the requirements of the HEA fellowship demonstrating excellent teaching that is impactful not only on the students but the staff and the Design Crafts programme in general. We would love to have her as a permanent member of our team and wish her every success in her future ambitions within her research and education roles.

