Supporting Statement Template – Fellow  
  
Declaration  
Please check the box below to indicate  
that you have read and agree to the  
following statement:  
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.  
 I have read and understood the declaration  
Date:  
Supporting Statement

7  
Please provide your statement to support the applicant’s submission for Fellow of  
the HEA 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.  
Two sides of A4 will normally be sufficient for this category of Fellowship.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | **Mike O’Dea** |
| Institution/organisation/other | **York St John University** |
| Job title | **Senior Lecturer** |
| Email address | **m.odea@yorksj.ac.uk** |
| Your HEA Fellowship status (if appropriate) | **SFHEA** |
| Relationship to applicant | **Colleague** |
| How long have you worked with the applicant (insert dates) | **Since 2017** |
| Declaration | Please check the box below to indicate that you have read and agree to the following statement:  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.  I have read and understood the declaration  Date: **10/9/22** |

Supporting Statement

|  |
| --- |
| Please provide your statement to support the applicant’s submission for Fellow of the HEA 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. Two sides of A4 will normally be sufficient for this category of Fellowship. |
| I shall structure this reference using the 3 key areas of the UKPSF to should my experience of Andy’s work and approach to each of the sections.  **Overview**  I have known Andy since he arrived at YSJ and as a HEA Mentor and Assessor I am very confident that he has been operating to and exceeding many of the UKPSF criteria for a long time.  **Areas of Activity**  Andy is a hard working, effective and well liked teacher and colleague. In assessing his teaching I base this assertion on direct contact and conversations with students who we have both taught, on seeing the results of official feedback from students from module evaluation and on direct observation where we have both been in the same classroom. His students like him and have commented to me so. I have seen his teaching and can confirm is it underpinned by a sound pedagogical basis, is experiential, mixes theoretical and practical, and is focussed on the production of artifacts and outcomes.  I have seen the quality of feedback he provides where we have shared students, notably in the final year dissertation module and can attest from direct experience that is it appropriate, clear and is both supportive and instructive (clearly indicating where a student can improve and where they has done good work).  He has been involved in a significant amount of designing, developing and delivering teaching material being the core staff member on the Game Development degree, where he has developed and delivered a very significant majority of the modules and their teaching content and assessment materials.  He is the Course Lead for the Games Development degree and has been so since starting at YSJ. He has managed, developed and nurtured this degree since its most early days. He has also been involved in at least 5 degree validations/revalidations within department and was heavily involved in all. All were successful.  **Core Knowledge**  As noted in the previous section Andy has developed not only the significant majority of the learning and teaching material for the Games Development B.Sc. Degree, but he has also made a very significant contribution to the other degrees that are offered by the department, B.Sc. Computer Science, B.Sc. Software Engineering and B.Sc. Cyber Security, where he has made a very significant contribution to the teaching of programming across the department, having taught and developed the modules that are taught across the programmes in both the first and second years. The degrees produce strong programmes and this is in no small degree attributable to the very good foundation the students are given in the modules that Andy has developed and delivered.  I have noted how he developed, improved and innovated, for example, spending much time and effort considering the most appropriate programming language and skills teaching progression for the students and how he has introduced unit testing based assessment to create a more effective assessment. I know he devoted much time and energy to ensure that the games development environment for his students is appropriate, is current and is an effective teaching environment.  He has researched and evaluated a number of different programming support tools to ensure that the students operate using effective, up to date and industry relevant software, thus ensuring that the students are properly prepared when they finish their degrees in go into the work place which is one with a fast changing and rapidly technical environment.  He has taken a lead role across the department in ensuring that any Moodle VLE environment updates and changes are notified to other teaching staff and that the implications are clearly understood and he has done this as a self starter, it is not a core duty of his or indeed one that was requested of him. He identified a gap and took it upon himself to address it.  **Professional Values**  I have only known Andy to be respectful and supportive to his students and have only ever seen him treating all students with equal respect. I know he has a very clear understanding of equality and how it is applied and integrated into teaching and learning and have seen much evidence of him doing so.  Much of the examples I have cited above, such as the research and evaluation of new teaching software and environments are examples of an evidence informed approach from research and scholarship which have been applied to learning and teaching, not just within his own teaching, but across the department as well. Often, these have also had a role in improved accessibility and usability for disadvantaged students, which has been a particular issue during the pandemic. I know that he did much work on ensuring that students studying remotely were able to do so effectively and that the learning experience was as close as possible to the face to face one, resulted in an outcome where many inherent disadvantages of the environment were minimised.  **Concluding comments**  Finally, Andy is a much valued and well liked colleague. He has a strong sense of academic citizenship and is a very supportive colleague. He is generous with his time and is very willing to share his knowledge. I can confidently reiterate that he has been operating at or exceeding the standards for FHEA in all areas for quite a while now. |