



Monte and Usha Ahuja International Student Faculty Mentorship Award

Cleveland State University seeks to recognize and honor the efforts of its faculty, who mentor international students and champion their success. The Monte and Usha Ahuja International Student Faculty Mentorship Award recognizes the time and energy faculty devote to international students each year and their efforts to build a community of support addressing students' social, academic, and cultural needs. CSU will award two faculty members each year; one who works with undergraduate students and one who works with graduate students. CSU encourages its community members to nominate faculty members deserving of this recognition. Monte and Usha Ahuja, who support student scholarships at CSU through the Ahuja Endowed Scholarship Fund, were the inspiration behind the award. Their scholarship enables international students the opportunity to study at Cleveland State University.

Monte and Usha Ahuja International Student Faculty Mentorship Award

If a faculty member has provided you or other international students with outstanding help, guidance, mentorship, and support throughout the year(s), tell them how grateful you are by nominating them for the Ahuja International Student Faculty Mentorship Award. In addition, we specifically encourage CSU faculty and staff, committees, and departments to nominate faculty who have made an outstanding contribution to an international student(s), committees, activities, or the university as a whole.

Who can nominate?

A candidate must be nominated by one or more current/former student(s), a colleague(s), an administrator, a department, or a committee. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Who can be nominated?

To be eligible for this award, the candidate must have contributed significantly to the advising, mentoring, and fostering of an international student(s) at CSU. Nominations are open for full or part-time faculty at CSU.

NOMINATION PROCESS

All nominations must be provided in English and submitted via the **online nomination form**. In addition, they must include as supplementary material, a nomination letter, and at least two support letters. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed or eligible for the award.

- **CV** of the nominee (requested, not required)
- **Nomination letter** highlighting the nominee's advising, mentoring and fostering of international students addressing categories such as:
 1. The time commitment and availability of the faculty member. Assess the mentor's time commitment to mentoring (motivation, career guidance, discussions, etc.) and their availability to students.
 2. What were the additional opportunities that the faculty member provides/provided? Please list examples of particular mentoring activities/efforts, such as meetings, leadership opportunities, and community interactions. Also, please provide information on the duration of their collaboration and the specific benefits for yourself and other international students.
 3. Assess the guidance and academic, social or cultural support the faculty member offers. Please describe in detail how the faculty member's help was essential to the student(s) development. Preferably, use examples of particular growth and possibilities presented by this mentor.
 4. How does the faculty member encourage international students to network? Using examples, explain how the faculty member helped students to become more involved in a college, department, or CSU

community. If possible, list the networking possibilities the faculty member has provided and describe how they have helped strengthen international students' connections.

5. Include any additional information that you consider important to share. Please provide information about the faculty member's activities that you consider essential to the overall assessment that does not fall under any of the above categories.
- **Minimum of two support letters** from another student(s) or colleague(s) who also benefited from the nominee's support.

REVIEW

The College of Graduate Studies will review nominations for the International Graduate Student Faculty Mentorship Award nominations, and the Division of Student Belonging and Success will review the International Undergraduate Student Faculty Mentorship Award nominations. The director or representative from the Center for International Programs and Studies will serve on both Award Committees.

The Award Committees will review all nominations and assess each faculty member between 0 and 3 points in each category. The maximum total number of points is 15 (across 5 categories). Points are assigned in the following categories:

1. Time Commitment
2. Additional Opportunities Provided to Student
3. Supportive Measures Offered
4. Network Encouragement and Growth
5. Additional Significant Contributions to International Education, International Student Support, and or CSU as a whole

For the graduate faculty awards, all nominations are due by noon on **Friday, January 16, 2026**. All nomination materials must be submitted using the following link:

<https://csuohio.sharepoint.com/sites/009/gradawards/SiteAssets/Ahuja.aspx>

DECISION

Each year, one prize will be awarded in each category (Undergraduate and Graduate). The award winner will be publicly announced and posted on the CSU website and via the other CSU communication channels. In addition, both recipients will be invited to participate and be recognized at the annual Student Belonging and Success Awards ceremony in April and invited to the Ahuja Scholars Luncheon.