

Students' Union
Awards
2025

Leicester Students' Union Awards 2025

Nomination Handbook

Introduction & FAQ

The Students' Union's Awards celebrate student-led achievements from this academic year.

This is your chance to shine a light on those students who you think deserve recognition for their hard work and contributions to the student community.

The 2024/2025 Awards fall into 5 categories:



Student Group Awards, which celebrate the amazing events, campaigns, achievements and progress made by our clubs and societies.



Community Awards, which recognise all of the incredible efforts in the areas of sustainability, liberation, volunteering and outreach.



Representation Awards, which recognises the efforts and outstanding work done by our SU part time officers and the academic representatives across all colleges and schools.



Superstar Awards, an opportunity to highlight the exceptional work of academic staff across the university.



Special Recognition, individual celebrations of students who have gone above and beyond what is expected of them in numerous ways as members of their student group or in the community.

Nominations close at midnight on the Monday 31st March. You can make as many nominations as you like, for as many awards as you like. The more detail and information you provide, the more reasons our panel will have to choose them as a winner.

We welcome nominations from all students, including students who are not a member of any student groups, not a Rep, have not physically been on campus this year, etc. All activities count, whether they were held in-person or online. And yes, you can nominate yourself – in fact, we encourage it!

If you have any questions with the awards or nominations process, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at unionactivities@le.ac.uk





Student Group of the Year Award

- A well-run Student Group with good organisation from Committee Members. This could include good marketing of the group and adhering to Students' Union processes.
- Evidence of Student Group development, for example through establishing membership, adapting activity to be held online, etc.
- Contributed to a positive student experience.
- Plans for sustainable growth into the 2025/2026 academic year.
- Worked to ensure that the Group is accessible to all students and promotes inclusivity.

Eligible for: Student groups/societies who have been affiliated throughout the 24/25 academic year.

New Student Group of the Year Award

- Must have first been affiliated with the Students' Union in (or for) the 24/25 Academic Year.
- A well-run Student Group with good organisation from Committee Members. This could include good marketing of the Group and adhering to Students' Union processes.
- Evidence of Student Group development, for example through establishing membership, adapting activity to be held online, etc.
- Plans for sustainable growth into the 2025/2026 academic year.
- Worked to ensure that the Group is accessible to all students and promotes inclusivity.

Eligible for: Student groups/societies who became affiliated in 24/25

Student Group Event Award

- A well-run event/trip with good organisation from Committee Members. This could include good marketing of the event and adhering to Students' Union processes.
- Contributed to a positive student experience.
- Worked to make the event inclusive and accessible.

Eligible for: Student groups/societies who have been affiliated throughout the 24/25 academic year.

Student Group Collaboration Award

- A well-run collaboration between two or more affiliated Student Groups, with good organisation from all Committee Members involved. This could include good marketing of the collaboration and adhering to Students' Union processes.
- Contributed to a positive student experience.
- Worked to make the collaboration inclusive and accessible.

Eligible for: Student groups/societies who have been affiliated throughout the 24/25 academic year.

Outstanding Contribution to Arts

- A Student Group who has contributed positively and effectively to arts at the University of Leicester.
- Worked to expose arts to the wider student community.
- Worked to make your society or activities as inclusive and welcoming as possible.

Eligible for: Student groups/societies who have been affiliated throughout the 24/25 academic year.

Outstanding Contribution to Sports

- A sports club who has worked particularly hard to develop their sport this year, positively impacting on the student experience within sports at UOL.
- Worked to make their society or activities as inclusive and welcoming as possible.
- This award is open to all sports clubs and teams, not just Team Leicester groups.

Eligible for: Student groups/societies who have been affiliated throughout the 24/25 academic year.

Outstanding Contribution to the Academic Experience

- An academic society who has gone out of their way to improve the academic experience of students by creating development opportunities and fostering a supportive environment.
- Worked to make their society or activities as inclusive and welcoming as possible.
- Hosted career and educational development events, campaigns and projects.

Eligible for: Student groups/societies who have been affiliated throughout the 24/25 academic year.



College Academic Rep of the Year

- Actively engaged with the wider SU and/or University community – for example, being involved in an SU campaign, or attending College/University Education Committees
- Worked to improve the experience of current and future students at a college level
- Contributed to discussions around liberation within their college
- Engaged with curriculum or course development, including discussions around Assessment and Feedback

Eligible for: Academic Reps (Including: Course Reps, School Reps, College Reps, PGR Reps and PGR College Reps)

Note: There is a separate award for each college and the rep must be a member of the college to win the award.

PGR Rep of the Year

- Made an outstanding contribution to their cohort or the wider PGR community.
- Been involved in a university-wide project or campaign as part of their role.
- Consistently made change to improve the experience of PGRs, both current and future.
- Put on an event to improve the research community for PGRs.

Eligible for: PGR Reps (Including: PGR Reps and PGR College Reps)

Most Impactful Academic Rep

- Worked to ensure that the curricula were accessible to all students.
- Made an outstanding contribution to their cohort or the wider student community.
- Been involved in a university-wide project or campaign as part of their role.
- Consistently made change to improve the experience of students, both current and future.

Eligible for: Academic Reps (Including: Course Reps, School Reps, College Reps, PGR Reps and PGR College Reps)

Research Focused Academic Rep of the Year

This award is for a Rep that focused on gathering information for students and being truly representative in their role. To be nominated for this role a Rep will have:

- Researched student feelings on a particular topic, through tailored surveys.
- Regularly gathered feedback in a structured format, for example through surveys, polls or in-person events.
- Presented the findings of their research in an effective and impactful manner to relevant members of staff and/or students at the University.

Eligible for: Academic Reps (Including: Course Reps, School Reps, College Reps, PGR Reps and PGR College Reps)

Community Focused Academic Rep of the Year

This award is for a Rep that has done work to improve the community around them through their role (note: this must be separate work to anything done through student groups). To be nominated for this role a Rep will have:

- Worked within their cohort to create a feeling of community.
- Maintained a student-focused approach to their role.
- Organised and run events with their academic staff or academic society without being a committee member.
- Encouraged open-door policies, extended office hours, and/or other opportunities for student-staff community building.

Eligible for: Academic Reps (Including: Course Reps, School Reps, College Reps, PGR Reps and PGR College Reps)

Most Impactful School Led Vision

Each year, School Reps work with the SU and their School to do some longer-term projects which aim to improve students' academic experience within their School. This award is to recognise their hard work and highlight School Led Visions which have the most impact to their School. To be nominated for this role a Rep will have:

- Worked collaboratively with their School.
- Have achieved a tangible outcome for their vision.
- Improved or worked on an academic experience for students within their School.
- Successfully completed a School Led Vision.

Eligible for: specific School Led Visions projects – can be for all the School Reps in the School or just the one who worked on this project)

Part-Time Officer of the year

This award goes to a Part-Time Officer who has advocated strongly for the students they represent, working tirelessly to improve students' experience. To be nominated for this role a PTO will have:

- Organised several successful campaigns, events, or projects.
- Regularly engaged with the wider SU campaigns and events.
- Empowered and supported the students on their network.
- Engaged with students by listening to feedback.

Eligible for: 2024-25 Part Time Officers

Most Impactful PTO Project

This award is for a Part-Time Officer (or multiple Part-Time Officers) who has created positive change for the students they represent and have left a legacy here at the University of Leicester. To be nominated for this role a PTO will have:

- Successfully changed University/School policy or put the groundwork in place for these changes to take place in the next academic year.
- Been involved with a project that will have a lasting positive impact on the student experience.
- Have run events that have educated and changed the views of students/staff.

Eligible for: 2024-25 Part Time Officers

Most Impactful PTO Project

This award is for a Part-Time Officer (or multiple Part-Time Officers) who has created positive change for the students they represent and have left a legacy here at the University of Leicester. To be nominated for this role a PTO will have:

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- Have run events that have educated and changed the views of students/staff.

Eligible for: 2024-25 Part Time Officers





Frank May Cup for Volunteering

The prestigious Frank May Cup is awarded to a student volunteer who has made a positive contribution to the University and wider community through volunteering. Students in this category have demonstrated outstanding commitment by volunteering on a regular basis and going above and beyond the expected requirements. Students can evidence their impact to the cause(s), as well as their own personal development. To count towards this award, volunteering must have been done on an unpaid basis within the past 12 months.

- Demonstrates passion and motivation to make a positive impact through volunteering.
- Demonstrates commitment, having volunteered on a regular basis or over a period of time (minimum 3 months).
- Has gone above and beyond expectations, for instance by taking a leadership role or expanding an existing project.
- Demonstrates personal development from volunteering, with the ability to self-reflect and show what they have learned.

Eligible for: All students

Advocacy Award (Social Development Goals)

This award recognises a student group or society who has been outstanding in their advocacy efforts and has particularly excelled in reaching their sustainable development goals under the social impact pillar.

- A student group with one or more of the following sustainable development goals: 4, 5, 11, 16, 17
- A Student Group who has gone the extra mile to ensure their community is inclusive and safe, implementing positive change where possible.
- Evidence of good organisation from Committee Members. This could include good marketing of the project and adhering to Students' Union processes.
- Fundraised, campaigned, or advocated for social change that directly improved the conditions within their community or a student minority.

Eligible for: Student groups/societies with the relevant SDG goals

Fundraising Award

This award recognises an individual student, group of students, or affiliated Student Group, that have gone above and beyond in raising money for external charity/ies.

- Successful charity fundraising completed in line with UK Charity Law.
- Well-run, innovative charity fundraising with good organisation from students.
- Worked to make the fundraising inclusive and accessible.

Eligible for: All students, groups of students or student groups

Community Impact Award (Economic Dev Goals)

This award recognises a student group or society who has been outstanding in their community outreach efforts and has worked particularly hard at their sustainable development goals under the economic pillar.

- A student group with one or more of the following sustainable development goals: 1,2,3,8,9
- A Student Group who has gone the extra mile to foster a safe and supportive community, showing evidence of processes and change being implemented that positively effects their members financial, physical and mental health.
- Evidence of good organisation from Committee Members. This could include good marketing of the project and adhering to Students' Union processes.
- Fundraised, campaigned or advocated for change within their community in order to better living conditions (particularly in relation to mental or physical health projects as well as work on the cost-of-living crisis).

Eligible for: Student groups/societies with the relevant SDG goals

Environmental Impact Award (SDG)

This award recognises a student group or society who has been outstanding in their efforts to improve sustainability at the University of Leicester, organising events, campaigns or projects to help raise awareness of environmental issues such as climate change.

- A student group with one or more of the following sustainable development goals: 6,7,13,14,15
- A Student Group who has gone the extra mile to advocate for climate action both within the university and out in the community.
- Evidence of good organisation from Committee Members. This could include good marketing of the project and adhering to Students' Union processes.
- Fundraised, campaigned or advocated for sustainable development, making sure they have highlighted lowering their own carbon footprints as well as changing any processes to create less environmental impact.

Eligible for: Student groups/societies with the relevant SDG goals

Campaigner of the year

This award recognises a student who has worked particularly hard to campaign for a project or policy this year to create lasting change and worked the Student's Union to achieve this change.

- A student who campaigns for students or a benevolent cause and advocates for positive change at the Students' Union, University, or local community.
- Evidence of using the platforms or democratic systems at the Students' Union to campaign for a change.
- Someone who takes an inclusive, intersectional approach to campaigning, acknowledges the disproportionate impacts on groups of students, and calls for collective liberation.

Eligible for: Any student

Outstanding Contribution

This award will go to someone who has shown exceptional dedication to their cause, going above and beyond to engage with the SU and make change for the better.

- Made active change to benefit the lives of students University.
- Evidence that they have supported the work of fellow colleagues including campaigns and events.
- Evidence of attending and contributing to meetings/events regularly.
- Evidence that they are reliable, organised, and empowering, even from behind the scenes.

Eligible for: Any student

Peer Mentor of the Year

This award will go to a Peer Mentor who has dedicated their time to their mentees, supporting them through the transition to university and to Leicester. The nominee(s) could have done one or more of the following:

- Sent high quality emails as part of the scheme.
- Engaged with their mentees outside of the core contact.
- Had continued engagement with mentees from the previous year.
- Gone above and beyond in efforts to support mentees.

Eligible for: Any student who has completed the 2024/25 Peer Mentoring Scheme as a Mentor

Sustainability Award

This award will go to a student (or students) who has shown a commitment and dedication to improving sustainability at the university of Leicester through working with the SU. The nominee(s) could have done one of more of the following:

- Proactively worked towards sustainable development goals.
- Advocated for or raised awareness of sustainability-based projects.
- Campaigned to improve Sustainability on campus.
- Collaborated on a sustainable project.

Eligible for: Any student

Liberation Advocate of the Year

This award will be given to a student (or students) who has championed liberation in everything they do. The nominee(s) could have done one of more of the following:

- Proactively represented students from liberation groups.
- Advocated for marginalised students within the SU and/or University.
- Lobbied for change within the SU and/or University.
- Ran or was involved with relevant events or campaigns.
- Challenged the views of others to enable transformative change.

Eligible for: Any student



Special Recognition 2025

This is for recognising individual students or committee members who have gone above and beyond what is expected of them as members of their student group in the year. This year, special recognition is split into the following categories:

Special Recognition for Green Action

Somebody who has been particularly involved in sustainability across the year. Somebody who may have worked to advocate for climate action, hosted awareness events, worked to make their student group more sustainable or created impact within the area across campus.

Can be either committee, society members or general students.

Special Recognition for Advocacy

An individual who has strived to become an advocate whether that is through fundraising, campaigning or general awareness of a topic or community. This could be somebody who has remained dedicated to a cause and has gone out of their way to make a change.

Can be either committee, society members or general students.

Special Rec for Contributions to Their Society

This is specifically to recognise committee members and members of student groups who have gone above and beyond to ensure the success of their group. For those that have demonstrated passion and motivation and created impact across the board, embodying the core values of the Students' Union.

Can be either committee or a society member, not for general students.

Special Rec for Academic Reps of the Month

These students were nominated by their peers across the year for their commitment to their role as a Course Rep, School Rep, College Rep, PGR Rep or PGR College Rep.

(This award is not open for nominations)

Academic Rep Co-ordinator's Choice

This is specifically for the Academic Rep Co-ordinators to recognise the work and dedication of their Reps towards a particular project or for hard work across the academic year.

(This award is not open for nominations)



Best Lecturer

This award is for a staff member who has been outstanding as a lecturer. The nominee(s) may have:

- Gone above and beyond to deliver engaging teaching
- Set time aside in a lecture to ensure that everyone understands the content
- Had a great professional relationship with the students in class
- Been approachable for students to ask questions

Eligible for: Any staff member who has delivered a lecture to students (The student nominating must have been lectured by the staff member)

Best Personal Tutor

This award is for a Personal Tutor who has shown dedication and commitment to their tutees. The nominee(s) may have:

- Gone the extra mile to ensure that their tutees feel supported
- Provided extra support when their tutees needed it
- Ensured that they met with their tutees face to face and had consistent contact with them

Eligible for: Any staff member who is a personal tutor (The student nominating must be a tutee of the staff member)

Best Academic Supporting Staff

This award is for an academic staff member who has supported students either through for their studies or student-staff community this is not for a staff member who has been a great lecturer, personal tutor or supervisor but for a staff member who has supported students outside of these roles. The nominee(s) may have:

- Taken extra time outside of office hours to support students in projects or other work
- Supported an academic society in their projects and events
- Fostered an environment which has enhanced student academic experience

Eligible for: Any academic staff member(s)

PGR Teaching Excellence

This award is for a Postgraduate Research (or PhD) student who has gone above and beyond when teaching or demonstrating for undergraduate or postgraduate taught students. The nominee(s) may have:

- Put in extra work to ensure that the students they are teaching or demonstrating understand the content
- Demonstrated a passion for the subject they are teaching or demonstrating for

Eligible for: Any postgraduate research student who has taught or demonstrated for undergraduate or postgraduate taught students (The student nominating must have been taught by the PGR)

Best Supporting Staff

This award is to show appreciation for the supporting staff who help students with things that are not covered by academic staff but still have a significant impact on your university experience. The nominee(s) may have:

- Created a welcoming and supportive atmosphere within their service
- Addressed challenges faced by students to improve services and processes
- Shown dedication to students and improving their university experience

Eligible for: Any Non-Academic supporting staff, this includes Student Support Services, Security, Estates and Catering Staff

Best Implementer of Feedback

This award is to recognise the work of staff members in improving the academic experience for students through the implementation of feedback. The nominee(s) may have:

- Worked with Academic Reps in Student Staff Committees to ensure that feedback is acted on and results are fed back to students
- Successfully changed things to benefit students after mid module temperature check feedback
- Regularly sought out feedback from students in order to make changes and improve things
- Actively listened to students concerns and tried their best to implement them

Eligible for: Any staff member(s)

Best Supervisor

This award is for a supervisor on any project or research program who has been excellent at supporting their student(s) and assisting them in achieving on their project. The nominee(s) may have:

- Supported their student(s) in getting extra training or resources where required
- Ensured that their student(s) had many opportunities to grow and improve across their project or this year of their research program

Eligible for: Any staff member who is a supervisor (or has been this academic year) for an undergraduate, postgraduate taught or postgraduate research student. (The student nominating must be a supervisee of the staff member)

Most Inclusive Practice

This award is to highlight the work of staff towards creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students at the university. The nominee(s) may have:

- Demonstrated exceptional commitment to inclusivity within the university community
- Promoted equal opportunities across all aspects of student and academic life
- Actively engaged with liberation groups within their school or across the university to promote an environment of belonging and inclusion
- Made a positive impact towards increased inclusivity on campus

Eligible for: Any staff member(s)





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