

**#RHSocs**

# **Society** **Awards**

**Awards Criteria**

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# Introduction

The purpose of this document is to clearly outline the process and criteria for Society Awards nominations. This document will be reviewed annually to ensure that all criteria are fair and up to date.

In order to still celebrate all the incredible things you have achieved this year, awards are going ahead and being run entirely online.

Most of the pre-existing criteria is still applicable and would allow for entries within the current climate of student groups. However, we have gone through and included little Covid-19 additions to really help you out when it comes to considering the awards and your nominations. There are also a couple of different awards in there, so keep an eye out for them! These have replaced the awards that could not be given out due to the nature of this year.

This year has been more challenging than any of us ever expected, but it has also highlighted how student groups, and those individuals that help drive them forward, have gone above and beyond what is expected of them to deliver innovative and engaging activities in a completely virtual environment. In a year of enormous challenges to students, sports clubs and societies have played an instrumental role in bringing communities together and supporting students' wellbeing.

More so than ever before, student groups have become a safe and welcoming space for students to engage with others, meet like-minded individuals, and build long-lasting friendships. Committee members have taken more time out of their already busy schedules to adapt to a virtual environment, innovatively creating communities to support their members and members' wellbeing. It is this that deserves recognition and what you should focus on in your nominations.

Check out more information about nominations training here:

**[rhsu.freshdesk.com](https://rhsu.freshdesk.com)**

# Nominations Process

- Committees are responsible for nominating their groups for group awards. Groups can nominate themselves for as many awards as they feel necessary.
- All nominees should be nominated by the committee using the online form.
- If there is an overwhelming amount of nominations for one group, committee members can discuss who best meets the criteria and then vote for who should be put forward.
- For Crests and Vice President's Cup, a current address will need to be provided for the individuals nominated.

# Selection Process

All nominations will be decided by a panel comprising of:

- Vice President Societies and Sport
- Societies and Media Groups Coordinator
- Student Opportunities Manager
- SSO Executive Representative

For the following award a further representative will join the panel:

- Sarah Parker Remond Inclusion and Accessibility Award: Vice President Wellbeing and Diversity.

Any group is eligible to nominate themselves for awards, but newly ratified groups should bear in mind that we usually require a full year of activity in order to compare to other groups' nominations unless there are exceptional circumstances that deserve rewarding. For all group awards it is useful to include supportive data in the form of figures where possible and relevant.

Groups should note that it is not necessary to have achieved every area of the criteria in order to nominate themselves or indeed to win an award. This is your chance to brag about what you've done during the year so don't sell yourselves short by not nominating your group for certain awards, you may have achieved more than you think. In the difficult circumstances of this year, this criteria is intended to remind you of any activity which might help your nomination, rather than exclude any groups from applying.

Individuals who are nominated for individual awards must be current students of Royal Holloway or an associate member of RHSU as well as meet the specific criteria of the awards. All nominations will need to be submitted using the application form on our website.

# Extraordinary Nominations

The panel cannot submit nominations prior to the selection meeting, with the exception of the SSO Executive representative who may submit nominations as part of their involvement with their student group(s).

However, in the event that a panel member identifies a group/individual who has not been nominated, but whose actions are worthy of nomination, they may make a case for that group/individual to be considered alongside other nominations. The remaining members of the panel must deliberate and vote on whether to accept the nomination. If all panel members are in agreement then the nomination will be included for consideration.

Similarly, the panel may decide by unanimous vote to move a nomination into a separate category if they consider the nomination to be more applicable to an award other than the one that the nomination was originally submitted for.

# **Group Awards Criteria**

# Fundraising and Campaigning

This is awarded to a group that has made significant impact through fundraising or campaigning. This should include work with national charities or local charities, work towards improving the lives of their members and students around them or tackling issues that directly impact students. In 2020/21, this award will directly consider the efforts of any groups who fundraised for charities or their local communities during the pandemic.

## **Things to consider:**

- Total amount raised by group overall and for specific events.
- How the group coordinated with charities and other organisations and why they undertook the activities.
- How online or in-person activities have impacted their members, the campus and the charity / charities that received donations.
- How the group raised awareness about a specific charity or cause.



# Sarah Parker Remond Inclusion and Accessibility Award

Sarah Parker Remond was an African American activist, an anti-slavery lecturer and the first black student at Bedford College. Throughout her life she promoted inclusivity, equality and worked tirelessly to support the rights of minority groups. The Inclusion and Accessibility award is therefore awarded to a group that has demonstrated an outstanding effort to ensure that their activities are as accessible as possible and have made a significant effort to promote an inclusive attitude within their membership and in the wider campus community. This takes into account where groups have made an effort to adapt and make their group more accessible within a Covid-19 world.

## **Things to consider:**

- Involvement in any workshops/liberation campaigns run by the Students' Union, i.e., Mental Health Awareness Week, Black History Month, LGBT+ History Month, Sexual Health etc.
- Fundraising for causes relevant to improving the lives of marginalised people, in person or online.
- Campaigns that you have run in order to raise awareness or show support for relevant cause, in person or online.
- The positive impact of inclusivity on your membership.
- Any changes that you have made from previous years in an effort to make your activities more accessible/inclusive. This may include where you have adapted to the current climate to be more accessible in an online and/or in-person format.

# Best Online Event

This is awarded to a group that has organised and delivered an online event this year that was innovative, exciting and has left a lasting impression on those that attended.

## **Things to consider:**

- Any outstanding online events you have run this year.
- How many students attended the event.
- How the event stood out from other events and how it was innovative.
- What steps were taken to make the event more inclusive/widen participation. This may include where the group took into consideration the accessibility of various online platforms.
- If the event has been run before, how it was adapted to take place online as a result of the current environment.
- If the event raised funds for charity and/or the group and how the management of the budget impacted the success of the event.

# Best New Society

This is awarded to a group that has gone above and beyond the expected growth of a new society not only in their first full year as a ratified group, but also in a challenging year with the ongoing pandemic.

## **Things to consider:**

- Any in person or online events that the group has run this year.
- How the group has impacted student life at Royal Holloway, i.e. through regular meetings/socials, from engaging students from a wide range of demographics, creating a community for students during a difficult time.
- Any ways that the group has contributed to their members' employability or our relationship with the community.
- What steps were taken to ensure that the group is inclusive.
- Any ways in which the current committee has created the foundations for success and growth in future years.

# Innovation in Adversity

This is awarded to a group that has adapted their activity as a result of the pandemic, have continued to alter their activity in response to regularly changing restrictions, and have used innovative techniques to overcome the adversity Covid-19 has caused.

## **Things to consider:**

- The use of a variety of online platforms to put on activity.
- How the group has adapted their activity to meet restrictions at the time.
- The steps taken to ensure detailed risk assessments were completed and adhered to.
- Where a group was not able to put on their usual activities, they put on alternative events or remained in contact with members.
- Any ways the group put on various activities or kept engaged with members in order to reach a variety of audiences, some able to come onto campus and others who were not.

# Digital Community

This is awarded to a group that has made a significant effort to create an online community, keep members engaged and promote positivity amongst their members throughout the challenges this year has presented.

## **Things to consider:**

- Any ways the group continued to engage with your membership digitally.
- How the group made a continuous effort to improve the wellbeing of members.
- How the group created an online community when you couldn't meet in person.
- What steps were taken to help to tackle loneliness.
- How the group used social media to keep your members engaged and up to date.
- Any ways the group demonstrated an understanding of the differing circumstances for students, in particular international students in varying time zones.

# Society of the Year

This is awarded to a group that has made a significant contribution to student life at Royal Holloway. The group should have worked hard in order to hold innovative online or in person events, keep members engaged throughout the year and take the difficulties of this year in their stride and continuously adapt to put on activity.

## **Things to consider:**

- Any ways that the group has contributed to its members' employability or relationship with the community.
- Any online or in person events that have been run this year and their impact.
- How the committee communicated with its members to gain feedback and consider its members' opinions in order to develop and adapt to the current environment.
- How the committee has worked to ensure that they take into consideration their members' welfare when putting on events.
- How the committee has worked with the Student Opportunities team and wider Students' Union activities.
- How the committee has managed and maintained good finances.
- Any outstanding work by specific members of the committee.
- Any positive media coverage the group has received, including our own student media.
- What steps were taken to ensure that the group is inclusive and diverse.
- Any new or adapted events/activities that have contributed to the particular success of the group this year.

# **Individual Awards Criteria**

# Crests

This is awarded to someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty of any member/committee member throughout their years of participation and has shown outstanding dedication and commitment to their group. In 2021 this takes into consideration the effect that Covid-19 has had on group activity, and how individuals have helped their group to adapt to this.

NB: Nominees for this award should not be in their first year at Royal Holloway, nor should they have joined their specific group this academic year.

## **Things to consider:**

- How this individual has promoted a welcoming/inclusive atmosphere for new and existing members of the group, in person or online.
- Any ways in which this individual has contributed to the success of the group.
- How this individual has participated in a wide range of group activities, in person or online.
- Any ways in which this individual has represented and promoted the values/ideals of the group to the wider campus community throughout their time in the group.
- Any lasting impact/change that this individual has promoted or been responsible for that has contributed/will contribute to the success of the group.



# Vice President's Cup

This is awarded to someone who has shown outstanding dedication to Student Opportunities, going above and beyond to make a difference to societies/media and wider student engagement, and dedicating their time to a number of different areas with the Students' Union and student groups.

Please note, the panel reserves the right not to award the cup if no suitable nominations are received in any given year.

## **Things to consider:**

- How this individual has promoted a welcoming and engaging environment within student groups.
- How this individual has engaged in multiple different opportunities within the Students' Union.
- How this individual has continued to motivate those around them throughout the pandemic.
- Any ways in which this individual has endeavoured to improve the lives and enjoyment of other individuals within Student Opportunities.
- Any ways in which this individual has engaged in wider Union work, for example campaign weeks, elections etc.

# Contacts

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