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SU

Student **IMPACT** Awards 2025

| Awards Criteria

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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to clearly outline the process and criteria for Student Impact Awards nominations. This document will be reviewed annually to ensure that all criteria are fair and up to date. Student Impact Awards are a major part of the Students' Union calendar, designed to recognise the commitment and excellence of individual and community contributions to Royal Holloway Students' Union over the course of a year.

Nominations Process

- Any student or staff member can nominate a student community or an individual for an award.
- Individuals and communities can nominate themselves for as many awards as they feel necessary.
- All nominations should be submitted using the online form.
- Only registered students at the University will be eligible for nomination.

Selection Process

All nominations will be decided by a panel comprising of:

- SU President, Sharanya Sivarajah
- Student Voice Manager, Laura Black
- Student Trustee,

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

- Community Leader: Vice President Societies and Sport, Bana Asqalan
- Academic Community: Vice President Education, Madelaine Gray
- Student Staff Member Award: Head of Venue Operations, Charlie Plaskitt
- Student Advocate: Advice Assistant
- Student Campaigner: Campaigns Assistant
- Student Inclusivity Champion Award: Vice President Wellbeing & Diversity, Olivia Davies
- University Codesign & Collaboration Award: CEO, Tony Logan
- President and Vice-chancellors and Principal's Award for outstanding contribution to University Life: Vice Chancellor and Principal, Julie Sanders.

Any individual, community or staff member is eligible to nominate themselves or others and it is useful to include supportive data in the form of figures where possible and relevant. You should note that it is not necessary to have achieved across every area of the criteria in order to nominate yourself or others or indeed to win an award. This is your chance to celebrate what you or others have done during the year, so don't sell yourselves short by not nominating yourselves for certain awards, you may have achieved more than you think. In addition to meeting the criteria of the specific award, nominated individuals must be current Royal Holloway students or associate members of the Students' Union. All nominations will be application-based via the online form linked on our website and must be completed by the deadline given. Any nominations submitted after that point will not be considered.

Extraordinary Nominations

In the case where 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.

Community Leader of the Year

The Community Leader of the Year award is awarded to someone who has shown exceptional dedication to fostering an inclusive, diverse, and supportive environment within their community. This individual has worked tirelessly to break down barriers, amplify underrepresented voices, and create spaces where everyone feels valued and heard. Through their leadership, advocacy, and commitment to equity, they have made a lasting impact on those around them and inspired others to champion inclusivity. They have dedicated their time to a number of different areas with the Students' Union and student communities.

Things to consider:

- How the nominee has demonstrated outstanding leadership in fostering an inclusive and supportive community.
- Examples of how the nominee has brought people together to create a sense of belonging for their peers
- Ways in which they have actively advocated for underrepresented voices and worked to break down barriers within their community.
- How they have collaborated with the Students' Union, student groups, or external organisations to drive positive change.
- Any events, campaigns, or activities they have organised to support and uplift their community.
- Their dedication to listening to and acting on feedback to ensure their community is continuously improving.
- How their efforts have inspired others to become more engaged in their community and continue their work.

Academic Community of the Year

The Academic Community of the Year award is awarded to a student community that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to fostering a supportive academic environment and a sense of belonging within their cohort. Through their events, initiatives, and dedication, they have made a significant impact on both their members and the wider student body.

Things to consider:

- How the academic community has fostered a sense of belonging and engagement among its members.
- Any initiatives or events that have enhanced members' academic development and employability, including study groups, networking events, panels etc.
- The impact of any community-led projects, outreach activities, or partnerships with academic departments and professional bodies.
- Collaboration with the Students' Union, faculty, Academic reps and other student societies to enrich the academic experience.
- Any significant contributions or achievements by individual committee members that have positively impacted the community.
- Any innovative or adapted approaches that have strengthened the community's success and engagement this year.

Student Campaigner of the Year

The Student Campaigner of the Year award is awarded to someone who has shown exceptional dedication to raising awareness, mobilising others, and taking action on important issues that impact students. Through their efforts, they have made a tangible difference in their community and inspired others to get involved in campaigning for positive change.

Things to consider:

- How the nominee has demonstrated passion and commitment to campaigning on issues affecting students.
- Ways in which they have raised awareness and engaged others in meaningful discussions.
- Their efforts to mobilise students and create positive change within the community.
- Any challenges they have overcome in their campaigning journey.
- The overall impact of their work on students' experiences and wellbeing.
- How they have inspired others to take action and get involved in campaigning.
- Any collaborations with student communities the Students' Union, or external organisations to amplify their cause.

Student Inclusivity Champion of the Year

The Student Inclusivity Champion of the Year award is awarded to someone who 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 the wider campus community. Through their dedication to equity, diversity, and inclusion, they have worked to break down barriers, amplify underrepresented voices, and create spaces where all students feel valued and supported.

Things to consider:

- Involvement in any workshops/liberation campaigns run by the Students' Union e.g. Black History Month, Disability History Month, LGBT+ History Month etc.
- Fundraising for causes relevant to improving the lives of marginalised people.
- Campaigns that you have run in order to raise awareness or show support for the relevant causes.
- The positive impact of inclusivity on your peers
- Any changes that you have made from previous years in an effort to make campus accessible/inclusive.
- Events or initiatives started to break down stigma and champion inclusivity.
- How you have made a continuous effort to improve the wellbeing of marginalised communities

Student Advocate of the Year

The Student Advocate of the Year award is awarded to someone who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to representing and championing the rights, needs, and interests of students. This individual has worked tirelessly to create positive change, whether through policy influence, support initiatives, or campaigning on key student issues. Through their dedication and passion, they have made a meaningful impact on the student experience and inspired others to stand up for their peers.

Things to consider:

- How the nominee has actively represented and supported students on key issues, such as through their role as an academic rep, community officer, or similar position.
- Ways in which they have worked with the Students' Union, university staff, or external organisations to influence policy and create positive change.
- Their efforts in advocating for student rights, wellbeing, or academic support.
- How they have engaged with students to understand and amplify their concerns, ensuring all voices are heard.
- Any initiatives, campaigns, or projects they have led or contributed to that have improved the student experience.
- The overall impact of their advocacy on their peers and wider student community.
- How they have inspired and empowered others to get involved in student advocacy.

Student Staff Member of the Year

The Student Staff Member of the Year award is awarded to someone who has consistently gone above and beyond in their role, demonstrating exceptional dedication, professionalism, and support for their peers and colleagues. This individual has contributed significantly to enhancing the student experience, fostering a positive and welcoming environment, and providing outstanding service. Their commitment and hard work have made a lasting impact on their team and the broader community.

Things to consider:

- How the nominee has gone above and beyond in their role, demonstrating exceptional dedication and professionalism.
- Ways in which they have positively contributed to the student experience through their work.
- Their efforts in fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for students and colleagues.
- How they have provided outstanding service and support in their role.
- Any initiatives or improvements they have introduced to benefit their team or the wider community.
- The impact of their hard work on their workplace and those around them.
- How they have embodied the values of the students' union in their role.

Collaboration and Co-design Award

The Collaboration and Co-Design Award is awarded to a university staff member who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to working in partnership with the Students' Union. This individual has embraced student voice, actively engaged in co-creation, and worked collaboratively to enhance the student experience. Through their dedication to meaningful collaboration, they have fostered a strong and productive relationship between the university and the Students' Union, ensuring that student perspectives are valued and acted upon.

Things to consider:

- How the nominee has actively worked in partnership with the Students' Union to enhance the student experience.
- Ways in which they have embraced and amplified student voice in decision-making and co-creation.
- Their commitment to meaningful collaboration and fostering a strong relationship between students, the Students' Union, and the university.
- The impact of their work on improving policies, initiatives, or services that benefit students.
- Any innovative approaches they have taken to ensure student perspectives are valued and acted upon.
- How they have demonstrated a sustained commitment to partnership and student-led change.
- The overall positive effect of their collaboration on the university community.

President and Vice-Chancellors and Principals Award for Outstanding Contribution to University Life

The President and Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to University Life is awarded to an individual who has made a significant and lasting impact on the university community. Through their dedication, leadership, and passion, they have enriched the student experience, fostered positive change, and contributed to the overall vibrancy of university life. Whether through advocacy, innovation, or community-building, their efforts have left a meaningful legacy, inspiring those around them and enhancing the university for current and future generations.

Things to consider:

- How the nominee has made a significant and lasting impact on the university community.
- Ways in which they have demonstrated leadership, dedication, and passion in enriching university life.
- Their contributions to fostering positive change, whether through advocacy, innovation, or community-building.
- The impact of their efforts on the student experience, ensuring meaningful improvements for current and future students.
- Any initiatives, projects, or collaborations they have led or been instrumental in developing.
- How they have inspired and empowered others to engage with and contribute to the university community.
- How this individual has engaged in multiple different opportunities within the Students' Union, campaigns, elections etc.
- The overall legacy of their work and how it has shaped the university environment in line with University and SU strategy and values.

Contacts

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