



Student Impact Awards 2026

| Awards Criteria

Contents

Introduction	1
Nominations Process	1
Selection Process	2
Extraordinary Nominations	2
Community Leader of the Year	3
Academic Community of the Year	4
Student Campaigner of the Year	5
Student Inclusivity Champion of the Year.....	6
Student Advocate of the Year	7
Student Staff Member of the Year	8
RHSU Staff Member of the Year	9
University Partner of the Year	10
President & Vice-Chancellor & Principal's Award for Outstanding Contribution to University Life.....	11

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.

Any individual, community or staff member is eligible to nominate themselves or others and it is useful to include supportive data where possible and relevant. It is not necessary to have achieved across every area of the criteria to be nominated or win an 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.

Selection Process

All nominations will be decided by a panel comprising of:

- Students' Union President.
- Change and Insight Manager.
- Membership Events Coordinator.
- A Student Trustee.
- Up to two further representatives.

The detail of which further representatives join the panel can be found under the description of each award.

Extraordinary Nominations

In the case where a panel member identifies a group or 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.

The award for the...

Community Leader of the Year

'Community Leader of the Year' is awarded to someone who has shown exceptional dedication to leading among their peers. This individual goes above and beyond to support and develop the aims of their community. They could do this by advocating for their academic interests, championing under-represented voices, or providing spaces for like-minded individuals to find a sense of belonging. They have made a lasting impact and inspired those around them and are well-admired within their community. Throughout their time, they have worked collaboratively with the Students' Union to advance their aims.

Things to consider:

- How the nominee has demonstrated outstanding leadership in fostering and belonging in their community.
- Ways in which the nominee have advocated for the interests of their community.
- Any events, campaigns, or activities the nominee have organised to support and uplift their community.
- The nominees' dedication to listening to and acting on feedback to ensure their community is continuously improving.
- How the nominees' efforts have inspired others to become more engaged in their community and continue their work.
- Any collaborations with student communities, the University, the Students' Union, or external organisations to drive positive change.

For this award, the panel is joined by the Vice President Societies & Sport.

The award for the...

Academic Community of the Year

'Academic Community of the Year' is awarded to a student community or individual that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to fostering a supportive academic environment for students at Royal Holloway. The individual or student community will have actively championed and encouraged the growth and learning of their peers and members and worked to represent the academic interests of their students. Through their events, initiatives, and dedication, the nominee has made a significant positive impact on both their peers and members.

Things to consider:

- Evidence of how the nominee has sought to build a community for their academic peers.
- Any initiatives or events run by the nominee that have enhanced members' academic development and employability.
- The impact of any community-led projects, outreach activities, or partnerships with academic departments and professional bodies.
- How the nominees' contributions have positively impacted the community.
- Any innovative or adapted approaches that have strengthened the community's success and engagement this year.
- Any collaborations with student communities, the University, the Students' Union, or external organisations to enrich the student experience.

For this award, the panel is joined by the Representation and Engagement Assistant.

The award for the...

Student Campaigner of the Year

'Student Campaigner of the Year' is awarded to someone who has shown exceptional dedication to raising awareness, lobbying for change, mobilising others, and taking action on important issues that impact students at the University. To secure or lobby for the change the nominee would like to see, the individual will have overcome obstacles on their journey. Through their efforts, the nominee has made a tangible difference 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 the nominee has raised awareness and engaged others in meaningful discussions.
- Any challenges the nominee may have overcome in their campaigning journey.
- The overall impact of the nominees' work on the student experience.
- How the nominee has inspired others to act and get involved in campaigning.
- Any collaborations with student communities, the University, the Students' Union, or external organisations to amplify the nominees' cause.

For this award, the panel is joined by the Campaigns Assistant.

The award for the...

Student Inclusivity Champion of the Year

'Student Inclusivity Champion of the Year' 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 inclusion within the wider campus community of Royal Holloway. Through their dedication to equity, diversity, and inclusion, the nominee has worked to break down barriers, amplify under-represented voices, and create spaces where all students feel valued and supported.

Things to consider:

- Involvement in any inclusion campaigns or events run by the Students' Union or other students.
- Raising awareness for causes relevant to improving the lives of under-represented communities.
- How the inclusion the nominee has fostered has positively impacted their peers.
- Any changes the nominee has made from previous years in an effort to make campus more inclusive.
- Events or initiatives started to break down stigma and champion inclusivity.
- How the nominee has made a continuous effort to create a sense of belonging of under-represented communities.

For this award, the panel is joined by the Vice President Wellbeing & Diversity.

The award for the...

Student Advocate of the Year

'Student Advocate of the Year' is awarded to someone who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to representing and championing the rights, needs, and interests of students. This individual has worked to create positive change, whether through attempting to change University policy, creating support initiatives, or advocating for change on key student issues to University or Students' Union staff. Through their dedication and passion, the nominee has made a meaningful impact on the student experience with tangible benefits for their peers.

Things to consider:

- How the nominee has supported and advocated for students on key issues.
- How the nominee has advocated to make student life better at Royal Holloway.
- How the nominee has engaged with students to understand and amplify their concerns, ensuring all voices are heard.
- Any initiatives, campaigns, or projects the nominee has led or contributed to that have improved the student experience.
- Evidence of positive impact of the nominees' advocacy on their peers and wider student community.
- Any collaborations with student communities, the University, the Students' Union, or external organisations to create positive change for students.

For this award, the panel is joined by the Vice President Education.

The award for the...

Student Staff Member of the Year

'Student Staff Member of the Year' is awarded to a Royal Holloway Students' Union student staff member 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, and they have shown commitment to the Students' Unions values.

Things to consider:

- How the nominee has gone above and beyond in their role.
- How the nominee demonstrated exceptional dedication and professionalism.
- Ways in which the nominee has positively contributed to the student experience through their work.
- The nominees' efforts in fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for students and colleagues.
- The impact of the nominees' hard work on the nominee's workplace and those around them.
- How the nominee has embodied the values of the Students' Union to be brave, inclusive, trustworthy, provide high-quality, and to be student-focused within their role.

For this award, the panel is joined by the HR Coordinator.

The award for the...

RHSU Staff Member of the Year

'RHSU Staff Member of the Year' is awarded to a Royal Holloway Students' Union permanent staff member who has gone above and beyond to support students and make student life better at Royal Holloway. This individual has ensured that their work has continuously supported and helped to develop students and communities on campus and aligned their work with the Students' Unions values. This individual has not just gone above and beyond in their own work but has also encouraged students, providing them the tools to create meaningful change themselves.

Things to consider:

- How the nominee has gone above and beyond in their role.
- Ways in which the nominee has positively contributed to making student life better at Royal Holloway.
- Evidence of what the students the nominee has supported have achieved.
- How the nominee has encouraged and supported students to create meaningful change.
- The nominees' efforts in fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for students and colleagues.
- How the nominee has embodied the values of the Students' Union to be brave, inclusive, trustworthy, provide high-quality, and to be student-focused within their role.

For this award, the panel is joined by the HR Coordinator and a Lay Trustee.

The award for the...

University Partner of the Year

The 'University Partner of the Year' 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, the nominee has 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 the nominee has embraced and amplified student voice in decision-making and co-creation.
- The nominees' commitment to meaningful collaboration and fostering a strong relationship between students, the Students' Union, and the University.
- Evidence that the nominee's co-design has benefited students.
- Any innovative approaches the nominee has taken to ensure student perspectives are valued and acted upon.
- The overall positive effect of the nominees' collaboration on the university community.

For this award, the panel is joined by the Chief Executive Officer of RHSU.

The 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, the nominee has 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:

- Ways in which the nominee has demonstrated leadership, dedication, and passion in enriching University life.
- The nominees' contributions to fostering positive change through advocacy, innovation, or community-building.
- Any initiatives, projects, or collaborations the nominee has led or been instrumental in developing.
- How the nominee has 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, or other events.
- The overall legacy of their work and how it has shaped the University environment in line with University and Students' Union strategy and values.

For this award, the panel is joined by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Royal Holloway.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Olivia Davies

Students' Union President

president@su.rhul.ac.uk