



The Usher Institute Recognition Awards

Overview

- The Usher Institute Recognition Awards are presented in 7 categories
- There will be a voucher and certificate awarded for each category
- Nominations will be considered jointly by members of the Usher Equality & Diversity Committee and members of the Usher Executive
- The Awards are open to all Usher Institute staff and students

Eligibility

The Awards will be open to academic, research, teaching and professional services staff employed and students supervised in the Usher Institute on the closing date.

Nominations should cover work carried out within the previous 12 months. The Awards can be for an individual or a team. Nominations can be made by staff or students

A member of staff who has been rewarded in other ways for the same or similar case or activity (with a lump sum, increment or promotion) should not be put forward.

An individual/team may not win in the same category in two consecutive years. Winners of last year's Usher Institute Recognition Awards are thus automatically ineligible for consideration under the same category this year.

Categories

- **Most outstanding team**

Teams of many types and sizes exist across the Usher Institute. They can consist of academic staff; professional support staff; students or a combination of all three.

A successful team usually contains supported and enabled members who, as a team, are recognised by peers both within and beyond the immediate department for their commitment to their common objectives, their drive in delivering well beyond those objectives and the wider impact on other departments and individuals.

- **Most effective community-building initiative**

We know just how important a strong community is - in terms of building an effective and collegial environment in which academic and professional services staff, students and visitors can feel included and have the support to do their best work.



Attracting and retaining high quality staff and students often depends most on the quality of the local community and this Award will recognise the achievements of a person who has built such a supportive, successful, and high-achieving environment.

- **Outstanding contribution to the student experience**

Staff and students who contribute to the student experience may deliver every kind of academic and professional service support, and may be on any grade. They may lead an office, service or teaching area; or have contributed a great idea and have worked effectively and enthusiastically to implement it.

This award seeks to recognise staff or student who puts student experience at the forefront of their way of working. A successful candidate will appreciate and understand education and learning from the student perspective and seek to respond to and support the needs of students first and foremost.

- **Outstanding contribution to positive research culture**

This Award will recognise a member of staff, student or team who has created an environment or delivered an activity that supports or promotes a creative, inclusive and honest research culture within the Institute.

This award seeks to recognise staff or students who put positive research culture at the forefront of their way of working. A successful candidate will appreciate and understand the benefit of a creative, inclusive and honest research culture and seek to build and support a positive research culture in the Institute.

- **Outstanding contribution to leadership**

This Award will recognise a member of staff or student who has created an especially positive and stimulating environment for colleagues to work in and/or by nurturing and motivating has enabled staff or teams to deliver highly effective work

- **Excellence in External Engagement**

This Award will focus on an aspect of a broad range of engagement/outreach activities which might include engaging new audiences with the work of the Usher Institute or outreach to support a wider community. We are looking to recognise and celebrate work which enhances the relationship of the University with the community locally, nationally or internationally.

Work which demonstrates creative and innovative approaches will be particularly welcome, and which goes beyond narrow definitions of impact or widening participation activities.

- **Outstanding achievement/special recognition award**

This award offers an opportunity for staff or students to be nominated for activities which do not naturally fall into any of the above categories for some exceptional activity which offers a positive contribution in line with the Usher Institute vision, mission and values.



How to apply

Complete the below short nomination form, and return to Susan.Buckingham@ed.ac.uk

Applications should demonstrate:

- Significant and measurable effect on target audience/partners
- Feedback mechanisms/evidence of reflection of staff/students involved
- Concrete examples of work or activities introduced and its impact are extremely helpful
- It is useful to know the proportion of the nominee's (or team members') time that is devoted to the work described, on which the case is built

Review process

Nominations will be considered jointly by members of the Usher Institute Equality & Diversity Committee and the Usher Institute Executive.

Any questions?

Email: Susan.Buckingham@ed.ac.uk