Aspire Excellence Awards

Recognising and Rewarding Excellence

The University wishes to recognise and reward staff who demonstrate excellence in their teaching, assessment, guidance or support for learners, or who contribute to the wider student experience. This will be achieved, in part, through awards to be made to individuals or teams, each of £750. Please note this figure is revised from previous years to take account of changes which mean the award is now subject to tax.

The Awards

It is important that nominations are made against the criteria identified below, rather than against any other measure, such as popularity. Awards will be made primarily on the basis of nominations received by the deadline, against the published criteria.

Student and Staff Nominations for a Teaching Excellence Award (two awards)

The staff or student nominator should indicate how the nominee has demonstrated excellent practice in enhancing their own or others’ learning, in any or all of the following ways:

a) Making a subject interesting and engaging.

b) Providing outstanding resources.

c) Supporting students to exceed their own expectations.

d) Using research and/or experience from practice to make learning relevant.

e) Supporting learners as individuals and recognising different needs.

f) Other means not listed here but clearly specified within the nomination.

Student and Staff Nominations for a Supporting the Wider Student Experience Award (two awards)

The staff or student nominator should indicate how the nominee has supported the wider student experience, across any or all university activities, in any or all of the following ways:

a) Providing an exceptional service to colleagues or to students.

b) Going beyond the reasonable call of duty.

c) Making a difference to the student experience through the service they provide.
Student Nominations for the Students’ Choice Award for Inspiring Learning
(one award)
The student nominator should say how the nominee has made a difference in any or all of the following ways:
  a) Inspiring students to learn and explore a topic or area of work with great enthusiasm and interest.
  b) Motivating students to try new ways of working or thinking which enable them to exceed their previous performance.
  c) Inspiring students to make a more serious commitment to their learning than they previously believed was possible.

Student Nominations for the Feedback Hero
(one award)
The student nominator should indicate how the nominee has supported the learning in any or all of the following ways:
  a) Providing feedback that made a significant difference to learning.
  b) Going beyond the reasonable call of duty to provide feedback which is exemplary.
  c) Using innovative approaches, technologies or techniques to provide feedback on learning.

Staff Nominations for Innovating & Sharing Teaching Excellence
(one award)
The staff nominator should indicate how the nominee (individual or team) has developed, and shared excellence with them or others, in any or all of the following ways:
  a) Supporting colleagues to develop through mentoring or sharing.
  b) Engaging in and sharing innovative approaches to enhance practice.
  c) Contributing to positive changes in the university, or nationally, which enhance student learning.

Staff Nominations for the ‘Unsung Hero’ Award
(one award)
This award recognises an individual, from any department, working in any role, who has made a substantial contribution that makes the University a better place to work. The staff nominator should indicate how the nominee has made a difference to them or to others in any or all of the following ways:
  a) Helping maintain our working environment.
  b) Acting as a role model to others.
  c) Consistently bringing good cheer to everyday tasks.
  d) Regularly going beyond the call of duty to assist others.
  e) Performing functions whose importance and value is only noticed in their absence.

NEW:
Sustained Excellence in Supporting the Student Experience
In 2017 the Aspire Development Awards Scheme wanted to recognise a group of staff who have been nominated year on year. They consistently get nominated but have not been recognized with an award. Five awards are proposed. There will be no nominations for this award but the panel will review all award nominations for the last five years and make awards on the basis of:
  a) Being repeatedly nominated for Aspire Excellence Awards by staff or students.
  b) Evidence of regularly going beyond the call of duty in their practice.
  c) Evidence of ongoing impact on the student experience.
Conditions of Nomination and Award

1. Awards will only be made if evidence of excellence and ‘going the extra mile’ is established.
2. The evaluation panel will verify excellence claims by reference to other available evidence sources, including but not exclusively with a line manager discussion.
3. To guard against potential claims of a nominator currying favour with a nominee, the nominator must not advise the nominee that they are submitting the nomination.
4. Staff must not, under any circumstances, canvass support from students for themselves or on behalf of others. Any applications which are associated with canvassing will be excluded from the selection process.
5. Awards of the same type can’t be made to individuals who were recognised in the previous year; nominations are nevertheless welcome as a way of providing feedback to individuals.
6. The evaluation panel will, in due course, advise all nominees of any nominations. The nominee may, however, reserve the right for the source of their nomination to remain confidential.
7. Nominations should be made on the form available online at http://harper.ac.uk/excellence.
8. The deadline for submissions is noon on Tuesday 4th July 2017.

Terms and Conditions

1. It is acceptable for an individual to make more than one nomination.
2. Submissions will be evaluated against the criteria listed. The evaluation panel will comprise of the Educational Developer, Head of Educational Development & Quality Enhancement, Director of Teaching & Learning and the Deputy Vice Chancellor.
3. For the Student Choice Award for Excellence the panel will comprise a subset of the Student Academic Group.
4. For the Unsung Hero Award the panel will incorporate the Staff Development Officer.
5. Where the panel believe there is sufficient evidence for a strong application to be made, award recipients will be encouraged and supported to make an application to the National Teaching Fellowship Scheme see http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ntfs.
6. Awardees will be invited to an event to receive their prize.

For further information on the Aspire Excellence Award Scheme please contact:

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