



TEACHING AWARDS



TEACHING AWARDS JUDGING CRITERIA



THE UNION



Manchester
Metropolitan
University

All Teaching Awards nominations are judged anonymously by a panel comprising students, Student Officers and other representatives. These are the criteria the judges will be working to for each award category.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Our most prestigious award recognises someone who goes above and beyond to make your experience at university exceptional. This is someone who motivates you, inspires you and makes you feel valued. They will be dedicated, enthusiastic and influential. They will probably make a difference to many students and will encourage you to be the best you can be. They will be knowledgeable and passionate about the subject. They will have a varied and interactive teaching style that will engage multiple students and will encourage you to be the best you can be.

You may want to nominate someone who has:

- + Championed the student voice, taking your feedback on board and making sure that you are listened to
- + Goes above and beyond expectations
- + Has a positive impact on your learning
- + Has extensive knowledge and is passionate about their subject
- + Approachable, motivating, encouraging and inspiring
- + Has a varied, interactive and engaging teaching style

COURSE OF THE YEAR

Your course is the reason you came to university and could shape your future. Has yours lived up to your expectations or exceeded them? Are the team that teach your course inspiring, motivating and innovative?

The 'Course of the Year' will provide consistently excellent teaching and feedback and provide students with all the support they need to do well.

- + Students are happy with their choice of modules
- + Students are encouraged to think critically and actively participate in their learning
- + Outstanding organisation, timetabling and management of the course
- + The course prepares students for their future
- + Exceptional teaching and feedback

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DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR

Your department (also called a school in some faculties) is the area your course sits in. For example, if you study Fine Art your department is Art, if you study Forensic Chemistry yours is Natural Sciences.

The 'Department of the Year' is one that has excelled in all areas of learning and support. Do you know where you need to go for support and advice? Are events and classes well-advertised? Do they put on extra sessions that are really helpful? If your department is friendly and welcoming, well organised and focused on the student experience, you should nominate them for this award.

- + Staff work together to provide opportunities for interdisciplinary working
- + Staff and students feel a sense of community
- + Extra classes or events to assist your development
- + Outstanding organisation and management of courses
- + Effective communication of key activities in the department

OUTSTANDING TEACHING FOR EMPLOYABILITY

This award recognises an individual or team who works hard to prepare you for employment and life in the 'real world'. Have they given you useful guidance?

Have they shared their expertise and encouraged you to go for your 'dream job'. Have they promoted extra opportunities such as volunteering, societies, mentoring or RISE?

The winner of this award will have helped you develop as a professional and will have increased your confidence in seeking employment.

- + Links with professional practice and graduate employers to help students develop as professionals
- + Will do all they can to assist students in getting placements, work experience and real world assessments
- + Has supported you with your Five Year Plan
- + Brings in guest speakers to relevant lectures
- + Makes connections between the course and application in the 'real world'
- + Provides opportunities for students to experience the professional environment (for example, through field trips, visits and events)

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OUTSTANDING TEACHING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainable teaching can mean lots of different things, so this award is open to your interpretation. You may want to nominate a staff member who promotes sustainable living and our commitment to our environment.

There may be a class where you can pass on the subject matter to other students or people in your community, or you may be able to feed in to how your course can be sustained for future years.

This award is for someone who is empowering learners of any age, in any education setting, to transform themselves and the society they live in.

- + Continually explores ideas around environmental stewardship
- + Raises issues of social responsibility and social justice within the curriculum
- + Promotes sustainable / environmentally friendly living
- + Develops an understanding of the future impacts of practices on the wellbeing of the environment and society
- + Empowers students to link this understanding to their personal and professional life so they transform themselves and society

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

Your supervisor has a great influence on your work and research. The best supervisor will be someone who provides constructive and timely feedback, is approachable, treats you as a peer, and supports the development of your dissertation, research, or Doctoral thesis from conception to completion.

They will share your passion for your research, understand the importance of research culture, and have the expertise and enthusiasm to guide you to reach your full potential.

- + Approachable, supportive and helpful
- + Offers excellent guidance and support
- + Provides constructive, timely feedback
- + Encourages professional development

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OUTSTANDING TECHNICIAN

This award recognises the key role technicians play in enabling you to acquire and develop your practical, technical, and digital skills. Has an individual technician delivered exceptional support or training? Have they given you excellent support with your projects, research, shows, or exhibitions?

The winner of the 'Outstanding Technician' award will be given to the individual technician whose skills, commitment, and vision have enabled the highest quality of teaching, research, and knowledge-transfer, throughout your student learning experience.

You may want to nominate someone who:

- + Ensures you feel confident in workshops, in your technical skills and in your practical assessments.
- + Maintains a consistent and supportive approach in giving technical and practical assistance.
- + Helped you gain relevant experience that will help you after graduation.

OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVE LEARNING AND TEACHING

Has someone made an extra effort to make Manchester Met feel like a place of belonging and a supportive place to learn regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities and religious or political beliefs in their everyday work?

Has someone shown outstanding commitment to challenging discrimination or tackling stereotypes and micro-aggressions? Has someone challenged you to consider diversity through what you learn?

Has someone been a fantastic ally or active bystander? Has someone gone above and beyond to influence others to make change, or empowered students to talk about equality?

Promoting diversity and inclusivity can be done in many different ways, but it boils down to acceptance and respect and understanding that each individual is unique.

- + Ensures students are supported in their learning regardless of their background
- + Challenges discrimination and tackles stereotypes in their teaching
- + Creates diverse course content which challenges accepted thinking
- + Empowers students to discuss issues surrounding (in)equality
- + Actively promotes and celebrates diverse perspectives

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DIGITAL INNOVATION AWARD

Has someone used digital tools or creative teaching approaches to make your learning more engaging, accessible, or enjoyable? Has someone gone the extra mile to improve your learning experience through innovative online resources, activities or assessments?

Has someone designed learning with students in mind, helping everyone feel included, supported, and confident to take part? Has someone encouraged new ways of thinking, made complex topics easier to understand, or empowered you through technology?

Digital innovation can look different in every subject, but it's all about using technology in meaningful ways to support students and enhance learning.

You might nominate someone who:

- + Makes learning more engaging through creative digital approaches
- + Uses technology to support different learning needs and remove barriers
- + Helps you feel confident, supported, and included in your learning
- + Tries new ideas to improve teaching and listens to student feedback
- + Has made a positive difference to your learning experience

OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO STUDENT WELLBEING AND SUPPORT

The winner of this award will have provided dedicated support and guidance to students this year. They will recognise the importance of promoting positive wellbeing, make sure you have everything you need whilst you are studying, puts your needs first, supports you with different aspects of your life or study and has made a difference to you.

You may want to nominate a member of staff who checked in on you and provided personal support or someone who showed empathy and understanding of each students' circumstances.

The winner of this award might be someone who is/has:

- + Supportive, helpful and listens to and cares about your needs
- + An excellent understanding and knowledge of student life
- + Understands the importance of wellbeing in academic and personal contexts
- + Is approachable and friendly