Enriching Student Life Awards (ESLAs) 2024 Award Categories and Criteria

The Enriching Student Life Awards (ESLAs) 2024 will be run in partnership between Cardiff University's Learning and Teaching Academy and the Students' Union. For the first time, awards will be open to nominations from both students and staff, with a combined shortlisting process. The ceremony will be an opportunity to showcase some of the best practice across the University when it comes to supporting the student experience.

Most Outstanding Learning Experience

A staff member who:

- Brings something out of the ordinary to inspire students and engage them with their learning. Provides opportunities for students to learn from one another and develop a course community.

- Motivates, encourages and supports students, making them believe they can achieve to the best of their ability.

- Uses the latest technology, for instance AI, creatively and effectively.

- Is innovative in the development of course content.

- Uses authentic learning methods that get you to look beyond the classroom.

- Embeds employability skills into the curriculum.

- Has initiative and creativity to provide solutions to problems, and remove barriers to learning.

- Is inclusive and supportive of all students.

- Promotes interactivity, debate and critical thinking.

- Explores difficult concepts through storytelling, use of real-life examples and other approaches that help students to learn.

- Develops breadth and depth of thinking/learning through exploration of social, cultural and political issues, which could involve the use of multimedia, popular culture and observation of the outside world.

- Demonstrates enthusiasm, expert knowledge and a genuine passion for the subject that instils a love for the subject in their students.

- Supports other educators to develop their educational practice.

- Collaborates with students to develop and refine the learning experience.

Most Outstanding Use of the Learning Environment

A staff member who:

- Creates a learning environment that privileges care and compassion.

- Uses technologies or social media effectively to enhance student learning, promote communication and encourage relationship building.

- Successfully uses digital learning, spaces, places, attitudes, or relationships to support student transitions and ensure students have an effective and engaging learning environment.

- Creates a strong sense of identity and belonging.

- Fosters safe, caring and compassionate learning environments in which students are encouraged and supported to explore challenging topics and to see mistakes as key learning opportunities.

- Develops exciting, inclusive learning communities in which all students feel listened to and valued.

Most Impactful and Outstanding Use of Assessment as Learning

A staff member who:

- Develops assessments that are innovative, inclusive and reflect the needs of a diverse student body, with opportunities to showcase individual talent.

- Embeds assessment opportunities that provide transformational learning experiences for students, supporting them to significantly develop knowledge, skills and attributes, including the Cardiff University Graduate Attributes.

- Where possible, works in partnership with students to design assessments.

- Uses assessment to promote critical self-reflection and encourage students to examine their personal beliefs and assumptions.

- Makes excellent use of formative assessment and feedback.
- Proactively uses assessment outcomes to make adjustments within their own teaching practice.
- Utilises a variety of methods appropriate to the learning outcomes.
- Offers choice of submission format.
- Promotes creativity and risk taking within assessments, encouraging exploration at the 'cutting edge' of the discipline.
- Develops assessments that are engaging, meaningful and that promote learning, curiosity, critical thinking and academic integrity.
- Provides timely, individualised feedback and guidance that helps students to understand and identify areas for improvement throughout the learning process.
- Takes a dialogic approach to feedback, actively involving and engaging students in their feedback and providing support, guidance and resources to help them interpret and make practical use of feedback in order to improve their learning and performance in future assessments.

Learning and Teaching Collaboration of the Year

A team that:

- Works collaboratively and effectively to provide the best possible student learning experience.
- Takes a joined up, holistic view of students' journey through the whole programme, and how modules are linked.
- Supports student transitions into university, between years and into further study or graduate employment.
- Demonstrates how integration of diverse backgrounds and experience is used to optimize student learning.
- Continually reflects on, evaluates and makes improvements to practices and processes.

Champion for Student Voice & Partnership

A student or staff member who:

- Is committed to ensuring all students.

are represented in all areas of their student experience.
- Facilitates the Student Academic Rep scheme to ensure success.
- Works in partnership to create a transparent learning community.
- Actively asks for student feedback to inform positive change.
- Runs events and campaigns to encourage student participation and collaboration.

Champion for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

A student or staff member who:

- Places inclusivity at the heart of practice.
- Has worked to reduce or remove barriers to participation.
- Recognises difference, creating a learning environment in which diversity is celebrated and used as a way of enhancing learning.
- Is a role model for and within marginalized groups.
- Runs events or creates opportunities for discussion, debate or support for marginalized groups.
- Works proactively at school, college and/or university level or with the Students' Union to influence policy or practice to make a more inclusive Cardiff community.
- Champions the values of both Cardiff University and Cardiff Students' Union.

Champion for Welsh Education

A student or staff member who:

- Is a role model for Welsh Language Standards in Wales.
- Provides information on the Welsh language and encourages students to use it.
- Creates opportunities to engage with Welsh culture and history.
- Uses incidental Welsh in conversation to provide an introduction to the language.
- Encourages Welsh speakers to engage with their learning and teaching through the Welsh language.

Student Academic Rep of the Year

A Student Academic Rep who:

- Works to represent all students in their cohort.
- Creates different ways of engaging students in their school.
- Is a strong advocate for the student voice.
- Attends training sessions and opportunities to enhance their skills and communication. Is approachable and responsive.
- Regularly meets with staff and reports back with any updates.

Personal Tutor of the Year

A personal tutor who:

- Undertakes their role with care and compassion.
- Endeavours to help students wherever possible.
- Provides appropriate signposting to support services.
- Is proactive in solving issues facing students.
- Is communicative and responsive.
- Encourages students to be the best they can be.

Doctoral Supervisor of the Year

A Doctoral Supervisor who:

- Supports Postgraduate Research students to achieve to the best of their ability.
- Provides outstanding and impactful guidance on thesis-writing and preparing for a Viva.
- Finds opportunities for researchers to develop and learn.
- Sets a positive example for researchers.
- Encourages and supports PGR students equally.
- Acknowledges the difficulties of being a research student, and attempts to remove barriers.

Professional Service Support of the Year

A professional service or individual staff member who:

- Does not teach, but provides outstanding support to students to help them achieve academically.

- Is a friendly face around campus.
- Provides tailored support to suit each student's individual needs.
- Considers accessibility and is inclusive of all students.
- Is knowledgeable and experienced.
- Has the student experience as the heart of everything they do.

PGR Graduate Tutor or Demonstrator of the Year

A PhD student who:

- Supports and contributes to the undergraduate student learning experience.
- Provides feedback and academic assistance in line with university expectations.
- Supports student learning in an engaging and informative way.
- Assists in the delivery of laboratory sessions in an engaging and efficient way.
- Provides constructive and timely feedback on queries.
- Approaches their teaching work with professionalism.
- Is active in offering advice and guidance to encourage participation.
- Uses equipment and learning tools effectively.
- Supports other PGR Graduate Tutors or Demonstrators.

Recognition Awards

These awards are not open to general nominations

- College Deans' Award.
- SU President's Award.
- Vice-Chancellor's Award for Enriching Student Life.