

# THE AWARDS 2021

## Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

<b>Institution name</b>	University of Reading
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Virtual Field Classes: Teaching field techniques at home
<b>Nominee/key personnel</b>	Dr Mike Simmonds
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	<p>With all field trips cancelled in spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Geography &amp; Environmental Science at the University of Reading turned to the digital space to ensure students were still able to benefit from this unique learning experience.</p> <p>Virtual Field Classes combine Google Street View with ESRI Story Maps to bring together maps, text, images and video to showcase field destinations and allow students to explore the areas virtually at their own pace. As they work through interactive learning activities, students develop their knowledge and skills, as they would have done in the field.</p> <p>This innovative new way of training students in field work skills offers significant possibilities for the wider sector in the future, both for preparatory work prior to travelling, and for students who may not be able to join trips in person.</p>