THE AWARDS 2020

Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution name	Ulster University
Submission title or project name	Variable Rate Progression (VRP) – Empowering students to design and control their own personal educational pathway, through the modules of a degree programme.
Nominee/key personnel	Dr Donald McFall, Lecturer in Computer Science - VRP Lead; Professor Chris Nugent, Head of School of Computing; Dr Mark Donnelly, Course Director for BSc Computing Systems; Dr Joe Rafferty, Lecturer; Mr Gary Topping, Kyber Digital; Chris Wright, Kyber Digital.
URL	https://www.vrpassistant.com/
Submission	Variable Rate Progression is a generic model and suite of software tools used to underpin the design and delivery of a flexible degree. VRP empowers students to become their own course designer, deriving personal pathways that embed flexibility to enhance career prospects and balance needs of both home and work. This personalisation is not available within traditional 'Years' based course design. On a VRP degree, thousands of tailorable pathways inherently exist and so do not have to be predefined by course teams. VRP addresses a number of educational priorities. It supports educational attainment and provides flexible and tailored access to higher education, helping to spread the cost of learning and accommodating a range of student profiles. VRP embodies the Athena Swan Charter, tailoring rates of learning to meet needs of students who are parents, those with caring responsibilities and spreading costs for those who cannot afford to study full-time.