



Awards 2025

Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Institution Name	Edvard Glücksman, <i>University of Exeter</i>
Submission title or project name	Dr Edvard Glücksman
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Edvard Glücksman, senior lecturer in sustainable futures at the University of Exeter Business School and faculty director of education in sustainability
URL	
Submission	Edvard Glücksman, senior lecturer at the University of Exeter's Business School, is a sector-leading educator in sustainability, known for pioneering globally connected, interdisciplinary teaching. He co-leads Future17, an award-winning programme developed with QS and 13 universities across five continents, in which students tackle UN SDG-aligned challenges with real-world clients. Dr Glücksman's innovative use of design thinking, flipped classrooms and digital collaboration enhances student engagement at all levels – from undergraduates to senior professionals. He is piloting Exeter's sustainable solutions minor and leads executive education initiatives, including bespoke, award-winning programmes with Capgemini. His teaching bridges theory and practice, equipping learners with future-ready skills and, for corporate learners, fosters development of new products and services based on the latest science. Described as "transformational" by learners, Dr Glücksman's work exemplifies global citizenship, real-world relevance and curricular innovation. He is not only reshaping Exeter's educational landscape but also influencing the wider sector through scalable, high-impact learning models.



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Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Institution Name	Jon Newton, <i>University of the West of England</i>
Submission title or project name	Most Innovative Teacher: Major incident clinical care simulation
Nominee / key personnel	Jon Newton, senior lecturer in paramedic science at the University of the West of England
URL	https://www.uwe.ac.uk/business/community-engagement/integrated-care-academy/major-incident-clinical-care
Submission	Jon Newton, senior lecturer in paramedic science at the University of the West of England, has transformed major incident clinical care teaching by introducing a six-week module comprising lectures, discussion-based learning, a table-top exercise, and a high-fidelity, multi-professional major incident simulation. He integrated 19 external partner agencies within the simulations, a mock major trauma hospital, and full deployment of the emergency services. The innovative approach to teaching has transformed the module and provided hundreds of students with real-world experience in a physiologically safe environment. Mr Newton has created a suite of digital artefacts that has provided more innovative training for our students following the simulation. The module has been so successful that Mr Newton has been approached to create similar simulations for several of the emergency services. The simulation has received multiple accolades and lots of positive student feedback and has helped to drive recruitment in paramedic science.



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Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Institution Name	Marie Taillard, <i>ESCP Business School</i>
Submission title or project name	Not by the book: Marie Taillard's creative, coaching-led approach to teaching
Nominee / key personnel	Marie Taillard, L'Oréal professor of creativity marketing at ESCP Business School
URL	
Submission	Marie Taillard, L'Oréal professor of creativity marketing at ESCP Business School, is redefining business education through bold, student-centred innovation. Introduced in 2023-24, her Omnichannel Management module, co-designed with global luxury brand Chanel, immerses students in real-world strategy work. Each team is mentored by a Chanel manager to solve live business challenges, supported by in-class frameworks, coaching and reflective assessment. Inspired by a "not by the book" approach, assessment replaces traditional exams with client presentations, group projects and self-reflective essays. The course evolves each year through feedback, peer review and industry engagement, ensuring relevance and continuous improvement. Its impact is tangible: 26 per cent of the 2023-24 cohort entered fashion and luxury industry roles, with 10 per cent joining Chanel and most advancing in role seniority. Students consistently praise the course's intellectual stimulation and Professor Taillard's supportive, coaching-based style. By fusing creativity, industry collaboration and transformative pedagogy, she equips students to thrive as bold, future-ready marketers.



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Institution Name	Zemin Chen, <i>University of Lancashire</i>
Submission title or project name	Using AI to enhance the student experience and assessment
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Zemin Chen
URL	
Submission	Zemin Chen, senior lecturer in the School of Business at the University of Lancashire, is a trailblazer in the adoption of AI to support learning and development. As her students testify, she is a forward-thinking lecturer focused on the future of business education. For her MBA students, she developed a custom AI virtual assistant trained on programme materials, university policies and academic writing support, which provides instant, personalised guidance, 24/7. Dr Zemin is widely and highly respected in the sector on AI and technological advances in learning, and while she has shared her expertise within the university and externally on national and international stages, the key beneficiaries of her dedication and expertise will always be her students.



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Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Institution Name	Matthew Jones, <i>University of Salford</i>
Submission title or project name	Dr Matthew Jones
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Matthew Jones
URL	https://uoscape.co.uk/microbiology-madness/?frame-nonce=25cfe8a4dc
Submission	Dr Matthew Jones has exemplified innovation in the three years he has been at the University of Salford. He has constantly looked to push boundaries in how biomedical science can be taught and assessed, through the development of novel modes of delivery, technology use and assessment design to elevate student experience. His work has had real impact on outcomes for students, including a 100 per cent first-time pass rate in modules incorporating his innovations. One key example of this is the development, in 2023-24, of an institution-wide platform for the creation of digital escape rooms to gamify student learning. Thanks to collaborations with multiple external institutions, it has travelled further afield since its launch in late 2023, and the platform is now used in 28 countries by more than 16,000 individuals. The work has also been published as a paper in the journal <i>Pedagogy</i>.



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Institution Name	Brian Freeland, <i>Dublin City University</i>
Submission title or project name	Dr Brian Freeland, associate professor in bioprocess engineering
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Brian Freeland
URL	https://www.dcu.ie/biotechnology/people/brian-freeland
Submission	Brian Freeland embodies the Dublin City University ethos “transforming lives and societies”. He leads the award-winning Grain-4-Lab project, and he launched the inaugural undergraduate bioprocessing specialism. The programme is one of 10 new Futures programmes underpinned by innovative pedagogies and co-designed/co-delivered by industry. Dr Freeland applies himself wholly to his students. He wants them to have real-world experiences that help to make them work-ready graduates. A co-designed module with Sartorius has been transformative for students as it recreates real-world challenges designed by industry leaders. In addition, Dr Freeland’s students undertake a “Fermentation Festival for the Circular Bioeconomy” challenge that tasks them to maximise sustainable and innovative brewing practices while optimising the usage of by-products. “Dr Freeland’s support, insight and example have had a lasting influence on how I view research and professional growth. Not only does he offer guidance when needed but always trusts you to take the lead and grow in the process.” (Malha, final-year bioprocessing.)



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Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Institution Name	Cora Beth Fraser, <i>The Open University</i>
Submission title or project name	The Relaxed Tutorial Project
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Cora Beth Fraser
URL	https://relaxedtutorials.my.canva.site/
Submission	When Cora Beth Fraser, an associate lecturer at the Open University, was diagnosed with autism in 2020, she found that her experiences gave her an insight into the barriers faced by her neurodivergent students, as well as ideas about how to dismantle those barriers. She developed novel ways of making her online tutorials in classical studies more welcoming to autistic and neurodivergent students. In the process, she found that her “relaxed” tutorials improved the experience of students with anxiety and chronic illnesses, students who were carers, and students who were in full-time employment. Dr Fraser’s Relaxed Tutorial Project concluded in 2023, and relaxed tutorials have since been rolled out to thousands of students across the world. Dr Fraser also advocates for autistic students, consults on accessibility, and has set up a UK-wide organisation called Asterion to celebrate the achievements of neurodivergent staff and students in Classics.



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Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Institution Name	Kate Knight, <i>University of Chester</i>
Submission title or project name	Most Innovative Teacher of the Year Submission – proudest achievements during the 2023-24 academic year – Professor Kate Knight
Nominee / key personnel	Kate Knight, professor of practice education and simulated learning
URL	
Submission	Kate Knight, professor of practice education and simulated learning at the University of Chester, has pioneered innovative, student-centred models that have transformed practice learning in health and social care. Her innovative integration of simulation placements and indirect supervision has unlocked more than 450 new community-based placements, increasing capacity and enriching student experiences in line with NHS goals. Recognised nationally and internationally, her model has been adopted by 16 UK universities and has featured at global conferences. Professor Knight's leadership is inclusive and impact-driven – supporting at-risk students and embedding safeguarding and quality standards. She mentors staff across the sector and collaborates with NHS England and Skills for Care to shape national policy. Her work directly benefits under-represented communities and enhances patient care, earning national award nominations. A former student captures her impact best: "You changed my life." Kate exemplifies the university's Citizen Student Strategy, delivering scalable, meaningful change across education and health systems.