



Awards 2025

University of the Year

Institution Name	University of Worcester
Submission title or project name	From learning to earning: Worcester's blueprint for graduate success
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	In 2024, the University of Worcester was again ranked as the UK's top multi-subject university for sustained employment or further study five years after graduation, according to the government's Longitudinal Educational Outcomes (LEO) data. Since the LEO was launched, Worcester has averaged the top spot for multi-subject universities at five, three and one year after graduation. This success is especially notable given that 97 per cent of its students come from state schools. Success has been achieved through curriculum innovation, work placements, additional qualifications, employer partnerships and "earn as you learn" opportunities. This led to 96 per cent of graduates being in work or further study within 15 months of leaving (Graduate Outcomes, 2024) – well above the national average of 89 per cent. The university has expanded its professional health and education programmes, launching new degrees in medicine and radiography, and has supported national teacher recruitment efforts. Employability is integrated across all subjects, including law, sport and art.



Awards 2025

University of the Year

Institution Name	Queen Mary University of London
Submission title or project name	Queen Mary University of London: tackling inequalities
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	Queen Mary University of London's four founding institutions were established to bring hope, opportunity and better healthcare to the less privileged in society. We continue to deliver that mission today: tackling inequalities and transforming lives. We open the doors of opportunity for students from backgrounds under-represented in higher education. We were the first Russell Group institution to deliver degree apprenticeships, for which, in 2024, Ofsted rated us "outstanding" across all areas. In 2022-23, we opened the London City Institute of Technology, a collaboration with Newham College and employers including PwC and Goldman Sachs. We tackle public health and social injustice by addressing "dental deserts"; working with forgotten communities locally and across the globe through our Genes & Health programme; and producing the research that underpins groundbreaking policy such as London's Ultra Low Emission Zone. With the world's inequality gap widening at an alarming pace, now more than ever, Queen Mary's vision, mission and work is critically important.



Awards 2025

University of the Year

Institution Name	Heriot-Watt University
Submission title or project name	
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://www.hw.ac.uk/
Submission	In 2023–24, Heriot-Watt University ensured its future as a provider of employment-focused education for a wide range of students, in every mode of delivery. Educational, financial, social, environmental and institutional sustainability was built. The university exceeded its inclusion targets, expanded access through philanthropic campaigns, and championed equity with landmark appointments and global outreach. Financially, it secured long-term resilience by opening a £110 million wholly owned Dubai campus. Research sustainability was marked by record income and a strong presence in UK-funded doctoral training. Leadership development was prioritised through a unique Global Leadership Programme and community initiatives. Heriot-Watt also led in employability, ranking first in Scotland and second in the UK, with graduates holding top executive roles. Environmentally, it committed to net zero by 2035, hosted a major Climate Hub at the COP28 climate change conference, and rose 277 places in the QS Sustainability Rankings. The university has built a legacy of enduring impact for future generations.



Awards 2025

University of the Year

Institution Name	University of East London
Submission title or project name	The University of East London: tackling tomorrow's challenges, yesterday
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	The University of East London has delivered the most ambitious transformation in UK higher education – turning risk into resurgence and redefining what modern universities can achieve: the greatest, fastest improvement in graduate outcomes; the highest, fastest-improving institution for student experience; the largest, fastest new business enterprise growth; and the biggest, fastest, most diversified university revenue growth. The agility and brave innovation of UEL, the UK's most socially inclusive university, is deployed to drive social justice – closing gaps, not widening them. UEL is a standout university not just for where it stands today, but for what it has demonstrated is possible in today's challenging sector: rapid, inclusive, sustainable transformation. It has set a benchmark for what a 5.0 higher education must become and provided a blueprint for how modern universities can lead national renewal, improve social equity and build a more resilient, future-ready society – tackling tomorrow's challenges, yesterday.



Awards 2025

University of the Year

Institution Name	Teesside University
Submission title or project name	Teesside University: transforming lives and economies
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	In 2023-24, Teesside University continued its mission to transform lives through education, particularly for under-represented groups – 87.4 per cent of students came from disadvantaged backgrounds. Teesside expanded global opportunities with a 61 per cent rise in international mobility and achieved triple gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework. Its Future Facing Learning programme and award-winning Student Futures Strategy boosted employability, with 77 per cent of graduates entering high-skilled roles. The university promoted digital inclusion by distributing more than 2,600 iPads to students. Outside the classroom, students contributed 14,000-plus volunteer hours, while clinics supported thousands in the community. Teesside drove regional growth, with graduate start-ups generating £118 million. Major investments included the £36.9 million Bios facility and plans for a £42 million Digital Life Building. Despite sector challenges, the university reported exceptional financial resilience. Staff achievements earned a fifth consecutive Investors in People Gold award. Community support following national riots underscored Teesside's strong civic presence and transformative impact.



Awards 2025

University of the Year

Institution Name	University of Hertfordshire
Submission title or project name	University of Hertfordshire: accelerating regional impact through global vision
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://www.herts.ac.uk/
Submission	In a year of sector-wide uncertainty, the University of Hertfordshire redefined what a modern university can be: globally ambitious, locally rooted and inclusive. Our revitalised international strategy delivered record-breaking recruitment from more than 110 countries, earning us the 2024 King's Award for Enterprise in International Trade. This global success powered local impact. We opened Spectra, our £100 million School of Physics, Engineering and Computer Science, securing a £13.5 million Expanding Excellence in England grant to launch the Biodetection Technologies Hub. Our research thrived across disciplines, with major accolades for academic excellence. We launched bids for Hertfordshire's first medical school and a new film studio, Propeller Stage One. Ranked first in the east for student satisfaction, we saw rises in all national league tables and welcomed national recognition for inclusion. We celebrated with our Festival of Ideas – welcoming 4,600-plus attendees – showcasing innovation, impact and public engagement. In 2023-24, we didn't scale back – we scaled up.