



Awards 2024

Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Imperial College London
Submission title or project name	My Imperial Campus app
Nominee / key personnel	Digital Campus team; The Dream Team
URL	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDi6KqqYv40
Submission	Imperial is a global top 10 university dedicated to finding innovative solutions to the world's biggest challenges. We are focused on creating the university of the future. Currently, we have a disjointed mobile experience of over 40 different mobile apps. This leads to user confusion and an inefficient use of resources. User research has clearly told us that none of the market leaders can fulfil the high expectations of our community. Our innovation is a seamless mobile experience that reflects Imperial as a global destination for innovation. Our objectives are: • Student-led design based on user research • Use of cutting-edge technology to deliver personalised, experiential features • Reduce the number of apps in circulation • Be a brand extension The solution to this problem is to in-source our design and innovation talent, and build ourselves the highest quality mobile experience within the global Higher Education sector.



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Institution Name	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences
Submission title or project name	The United Nations Global Surgery Learning Hub
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	www.surghub.org
Submission	There is a huge unmet need for surgical care worldwide; training more surgical care providers is vital to meet this need. Trainees and training programmes in low-resource settings often lack access to high-quality, appropriate training material. SURGhub is an open access e-learning platform, produced as a collaborative effort of the global surgical community (under the United Nations banner) and supported by a project team from RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, the Global Surgery Foundation and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. SURGhub launched on 28 June 2023. As of 29 May 2024, it has 53 courses available and over 5,000 learners from 164 countries. It is reaching its target audience, with 71% of learners from countries classified as low or middle income by the World Bank. It creates significant efficiencies and cost savings, and is both scalable and replicable. Ultimately, SURGhub saves lives.



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Institution Name	Aston University
Submission title or project name	Implementation of Generative AI (SimConverse®) for simulated placements and placement preparation
Nominee / key personnel	Natalie Lewis and the Professional Experiences Implementation Team
URL	https://www.aston.ac.uk/latest-news/aston-pharmacy-school-students-benefit-generative-ai-simulation-prepare-them-real-wo
Submission	Aston University has pioneered the use of SimConverse® AI in pharmacy education, addressing the challenges of experiential learning amid a shortage of placements in an understaffed, over-stretched National Health Service workplace. Custom-built scenarios allowed students to practise communication skills and key tasks, through interaction with an AI character leading to a significant improvement in performance. This innovative approach has shown promising results in preparing students for real-world pharmacy practice. The approach is sustainable within the envelope of NHS placement tariff and represents a cost saving for both students and the NHS when compared with traditional training on placement. With plans to expand this method to Optometry, Nursing and Medicine, and the possibility of sharing these resources with other pharmacy schools, Aston University is at the forefront of modernising healthcare education.



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	University of Glasgow
Submission title or project name	University of Glasgow's Automation Journey
Nominee / key personnel	Gregor Caldow, Executive Director of Finance; Nadia Ness, Executive Director of Transformation; Jennifer Robertson, Head of Automation; Ciara Lightbody, Director of Business Change; Gregor Lowther, Automation Lead Technical; Jane Money, Operational Excellence Lead; Stephen Faickney, Automation Lead, Engagement and Analysis
URL	https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/transformation/automation/
Submission	The University of Glasgow is addressing complex challenges across HE by enhancing operational processes through its Automation Service. This service aims to boost productivity, efficiency and cost-effectiveness while improving staff and student experiences. Since January 2023, 24 virtual workers have been deployed across 15 departments, saving over 18,500 hours and multiple other benefits. A notable case study is the automation of student extension requests, saving over 4,000 hours and improving the processing of over 28,500 requests to date. Our innovative approach leverages AI and automation to streamline processes, ensure data security and provide scalable solutions. We actively share our expertise through sector-wide networks and conferences, establishing a Centre of Excellence with a library of scalable automation solutions. Our future vision includes enhancing our offerings with the latest AI and automation tools to drive value and remain a source of guidance for Institutions on their automation journeys.



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	University of the Arts London
Submission title or project name	UAL Showcase: From emergency pandemic response to career launchpad for graduates
Nominee / key personnel	Digital Public Platforms team
URL	https://ualshowcase.arts.ac.uk/
Submission	University of the Arts London's Showcase site was launched in 2020 to enable graduating students to exhibit their work despite lockdown. UAL has invested further in it over the past 18 months, with a new vision to "champion students and help them to connect with the people and industries that employ them". Showcase now provides a year of promotional support when students graduate, while offering employers an always-on directory of creativity. Improvements in the past 18 months include strategic changes (e.g. year-round activations, industry-curated collections, better data/insights) and product developments (e.g. custom URLs for students, awards badging, recruitment-led search tags, and "hire me" buttons). These changes have led to significant YoY uplifts in both students uploading their work and engagement with the site. UAL also has a bank of case studies of graduates who have found meaningful work through the site.



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Institution Name	UCL
Submission title or project name	Digital Virtual Reality Centres for Global Equality in Scientific Training: The 3DI Virtual Reality Institute
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Stephen Hilton, Associate Professor, UCL School of Pharmacy (Virtual reality concept originator and creator of digital virtual institutes); Professor Deepak Kalaskar, UCL Division of Surgery (project lead of the 3DI Centre); Professor Dr Oğuzhan Gündüz and Lecturer Sema Gündüz, Marmara University (Project leads at Marmara University); Dr Blanka Hilton, University of Kent, Department of Global and Lifelong Learning (Outreach lead at the 3DI centre); Professor Anant Kapdi, ICT Mumbai (Indian lead of ISCC); Dr Stellos Arseniyadis, Queen Mary University of London (UK lead of the ISCC)
URL	https://www.3di-printing.org/ ; https://indouk-iscc.net/index.html
Submission	In an increasingly digital world, significant inequalities in access to training and education persist. The 3DI Virtual Reality Institute - a collaboration between UCL and Marmara University - addresses these disparities by creating a virtual institute where scientists can meet using AI-voice avatars and VR. This initiative, originating from a virtual chemistry centre developed during the pandemic, focuses on 3D printing. Accessible via PC or VR headsets, the institute enhances productivity, reduces costs and offers 24/7 access, including multilingual AI-voice avatars, providing equal opportunities for students in remote or underprivileged areas. The institute features digital spaces for conferences, lectures and poster exhibitions, with award-winning training facilities for hands-on learning in areas like HPLC and 3D printing. Despite initial challenges, collaboration and support from the British Council enabled broad participation. The institute has trained over 700 individuals, saving time and costs, reducing carbon emissions and offering a sustainable model for global collaboration and education.