



Awards 2024

University of the Year

Institution Name	University of Sunderland
Submission title or project name	Strategy: People with purpose driving performance
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	When the University of Sunderland refreshed its five-year strategy in 2019, it led with the bold purpose to be a life-changing institution. It was underpinned by three ambitions: to be student-focused, professions-facing and society-shaping. By 2023/24, the University had achieved success in raising academic outcomes and acting as a catalyst for regeneration in the city. Its focus on students is illustrated by its 24-hour-a-day mental health support. Through its professions-facing ambition, the curriculum is rooted in the economic and social priorities of the region, with 55% of its first – and diverse – cohort of medical students working in local NHS roles. Its society-shaping influence has grown too, through leading film and media programmes, which gave the University a central role in bringing a £450m film studios' investment to Sunderland. As the University's strategy illustrates, purpose drives people; and people with purpose drive performance.



Awards 2024

University of the Year

Institution Name	University of Leicester
Submission title or project name	University of Leicester
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://le.ac.uk/
Submission	Diversity defines our city and is at the heart of who we are as a university. In our Citizens of Change Strategy 2022, we set out a vision to be the University for inclusion and, in an exceptional year, Leicester has made good on this promise strengthening our community, our city and the world as a result. Our super-diversity is a strength that underpins our teaching and research and is core to our mission, values and purpose. Our recruitment strategy was strategic and demand for places was high with student intake rising by 26%. As a result, the University of Leicester is now more diverse and inclusive than almost all Russell Group universities: 40% of our students are from disadvantaged areas and 63% are from minority ethnic backgrounds. 40% of our students are from Asian backgrounds and 16% are from black backgrounds.



Awards 2024

University of the Year

Institution Name	Ulster University
Submission title or project name	The power of people, place and partnership
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	In 2022/23, Ulster University truly began to realise our full potential, demonstrating the transformative power of higher education locally, nationally and globally. From completing one of the largest higher education capital projects in Europe and hosting the sitting President of the United States of America, to leading the commemorations of a historic political agreement and launching a unique leadership programme that will develop the change-makers of tomorrow, Ulster University was on the world stage. What makes these achievements all the more remarkable is that there was no compromise or diminution of our outstanding teaching, research and student experience, to which we are unshakeably committed. Ulster University's results and awards reflect the dedication of our staff to doing the right thing for our students, ensuring they have the most rewarding learning experience possible, and demonstrating the power of our people, our place and our partnerships.



Awards 2024

University of the Year

Institution Name	University of Surrey
Submission title or project name	University of Surrey - University of the Year
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	https://www.surrey.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2021-09/forward_thinking_and_doing_2021.pdf
Submission	The University of Surrey excels across research, teaching and student experience, guided by our ambitious strategy, "Forward thinking. And doing". External rankings and awards rated us highly across student satisfaction (4th in the UK in the National Student Survey), research excellence (19th for research output quality) and graduate outcomes (3rd in the South and 12th in the UK for highly skilled employment). We also won awards and plaudits for our widening access programmes. We launched our Institute for Sustainability in 2022-23, and new Institute for People-Centred AI secured £25m in external funding. Our School of Medicine launched in 2022-23, and has just been awarded the most new public-funded places for any UK medical school. We want to continue to excel across all these areas. We launched our first global fundraising campaign, and achieved many milestones towards a £60m target, which will help us to keep transforming lives into the future.



Awards 2024

University of the Year

Institution Name	University of Stirling
Submission title or project name	University of the Year - Stirling
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	Stirling's Strategic Plan 2016-2023 aimed to address societal needs through interdisciplinary research, high-quality teaching and global knowledge sharing. Despite sector challenges, the University achieved significant milestones, including surpassing its income goal by increasing revenue to £169.7m in 2022/23. This growth stemmed from optimising unregulated student recruitment, international partnerships, research and business engagement. Research income alone rose by 54.2% from the 2014/15 baseline. Stirling expanded its unregulated student population by 91% against the 2014/15 baseline, achieving high overall satisfaction scores in the ISB (2022). The student experience was further enhanced by the £23m Campus Central redevelopment, recognised with a 2023 RIAS award. Sporting excellence was also exemplified, with students excelling in the Tokyo Olympics and Birmingham Commonwealth Games. In tandem, significant activity was undertaken in 2022/23 to develop a new Strategic Plan towards 2030, focusing on People, Place and Purpose, and ensuring Stirling's future as a force for good.



Awards 2024

University of the Year

Institution Name	London Metropolitan University
Submission title or project name	The Real London
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Lynn Dobbs, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive
URL	https://www.londonmet.ac.uk/the-real-london/
Submission	London Metropolitan University has achieved a remarkable transformation under Professor Lynn Dobbs' leadership. It has solidified its financial health and academic excellence with a 50% growth in income, an operating surplus of £8.4 million, and high student satisfaction rates as shown in the National Student Survey. Our impactful research, recognised by the 2021 REF, and initiatives like the London Met Lab and the Centre for Equity & Inclusion, demonstrate our commitment to social justice and community engagement. Our strategic investments and international partnerships further highlight our dedication to creating a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable educational environment. London Met is proud to be one of the most diverse universities in the UK, reflecting the vibrant metropolitan community we serve. Finally, our multi-award winning Real London campaign has made waves across the sector and helped change perceptions of the University.