



The University of
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

THE Awards 2019 – Outstanding Contribution to Leadership Development

Institution/Nominee	University of Nottingham
Title	Ambitious Futures - securing leadership talent in higher education
Key personnel	Ambitious Futures / Christine Abbott
URL	https://www.ambitiousfutures.co.uk/
Submission	<p>Run by the University of Nottingham on behalf of the sector, Ambitious Futures, the national graduate leadership programme for higher education, attracts the brightest graduate talent into employment at universities and uses a challenging 18-month development programme to prepare them for future leadership positions.</p> <p>The programme has secured continuous improvement in the calibre of graduates recruited, attracting almost 1,000 applications for 28 places. It is also encouraging increased ethnic diversity in university leadership positions, with BME participants comprising 14% of places, rising to 19% for 2018/19.</p> <p>Ambitious Futures has delivered a comprehensive improvement in standards, cost-effectiveness and scheme cohesion, while maintaining management fees, paid by each partner university, at the same level for five years running. It maintains a high retention rate with more than 90% of the 2017/18 cohort continuing to work in higher education, on average securing a role at one grade higher than those entering direct into profession.</p>