



Bringing alive the past for students has secured the Most Innovative Teacher of the Year Award for Sara Wolfson.

Dr Wolfson, senior lecturer in early modern history at Canterbury Christ Church University, uses workshops rather than traditional lectures on her courses in order to keep undergraduates engaged.

On one module, first-year learners recreated the trial of Charles I, taking on prosecution and defence roles in an exercise that combined historical investigation, teamwork and role play.

Dr Wolfson has also made changes to assessment to take account of students' academic citizenship.

In a second-year course on the Tudors, students were marked on their engagement within online forums as well as during seminars, while a source analysis exercise took the form of an online debate.

Another second-year course, "Sex, defiance and death", was revalidated to allow students to host an in-house exhibition, which was linked to their final assessment.

Dr Wolfson says she is "passionate about holistic modes of learning that allow students to build connections between the pieces of information they assimilate, to make sense of topics for themselves".

The judges were impressed by Dr Wolfson's thoughtful approach to teaching. "Sara demonstrated how engagement with students had assisted her own evaluation of practice, which led to further development and professional progress.

"This approach has had an impact beyond the course and discipline, and fed into graduate attributes and an employability module."