



The University of Manchester

Alys Young's nomination stood out in this new category, not only for her outstanding supervision work in deaf studies and social work, but for her fierce commitment to helping deaf students access PhD-level study.

Able to provide high-quality supervision in sign language if needed, Professor Young has helped her students overcome both academic and personal difficulties, providing excellent pastoral and academic supervision well beyond graduation.

Thanks to her unstinting support, many deaf students who might otherwise have struggled to access research degree programmes have now obtained PhDs, found jobs in their desired fields and made their own unique contribution to the future of research.

She has also helped parents with deaf children to undertake PhD-level study, enabling them to become parent-researchers within doctoral studies.

Students under her care have been directed towards training and development opportunities, while Professor Young has also participated in efforts to nurture the next generation of research leaders in her fields.

Praising the "highly distinctive" work of Professor Young and her exceptional support for students, the judges described how she had "helped [her students] overcome obstacles to starting or continuing their doctorate as well as providing opportunities to publish and disseminate their work to both academic and non-academic audiences" .

Appointed a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in 2015, Professor Young has been described as a "one-off" whose supervisions, support and research have had a global impact, making her a worthy winner of Times Higher Education's very first award for Outstanding Research Supervisor of the Year.