

UNIVERSITY
OF CENTRAL
LANCASHIRE



The University of Central Lancashire's efforts to help a university community after it was struck by a natural disaster won it the acclaim of our judges. Uclan transferred almost 700 students and staff from the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine to its Preston campus when they were displaced by Hurricane Irma in early September 2017.

Uclan coordinated a rapid-response project team comprising more than 100 staff from its School of Medicine and administrative departments, which facilitated the relocation of 643 students and almost 30 staff from Dutch St Maarten and other disparate locations across the US and Canada to Preston.

Its goal was to enable AUC to resume teaching on the programme within a nine-day time frame, without having a detrimental impact on the Uclan student experience and its own medical students' tuition.

Uclan said that the unexpected cohort of international students gave a welcome boost to the local economy, while a revenue share with AUC's parent company ensured that the project not only covered its costs but returned a small surplus.

Since the project, the institutions have strengthened their partnership: Uclan will now teach cohorts of AUC medical students for their first two years of non-clinical training; the existing Uclan bachelor of medical sciences will become a feeder stream for AUC's graduate entry programme; and the universities are establishing a joint medical degree programme for prospective students from across the world.

The judges said that they were "impressed by the speed and thoughtfulness of the response and the positive impact that it had had on public perceptions of Uclan and universities more generally". They also recognised that the collaboration led to a lasting partnership between the two institutions.