



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

This award recognises Helen Gleeson for her outstanding supervision and support of PhD students past and present.

Currently head of the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Leeds, Professor Gleeson previously worked at the University of Manchester, where she was the physics department's first female lecturer.

Testimonials for Professor Gleeson's nomination highlighted her involvement in improving the level of support at Leeds for students from a diverse range of backgrounds.

She spearheaded the creation of her department's postgraduate tutors groups for international students and for women, which give students access to a support network of academics who have faced similar situations and experiences.

Since 1990, Professor Gleeson has supervised 31 PhD students, several of whom have gone on to work for world-leading technology companies or have become highly regarded academics leading their own research groups.

Claire Honess, dean of Leeds Doctoral College, commended Professor Gleeson's "selfless" approach to ensuring that students' work is funded and supported, noting that her "sensitivity to the needs of postgraduate researchers...has inspired her to develop new PhD formats", including a four-year course aimed at making sciences more accessible to international researchers.

The judges said that Professor Gleeson's students "appreciated her mentoring approach, challenging and encouraging them to do things they could never have imagined while being constantly supportive before, during and after their PhD".