



Taking classroom learning into the real world secured the Most Innovative Teacher of the Year title for Momodou Sallah, senior lecturer in youth, community and education at De Montfort.

Over the year he led three field trips to Gambia, allowing third-year undergraduates to take part in community development work and to observe at first hand some of the globalisation challenges that they had been studying. The students helped to build the Manduar Development Hub, a business incubation and training centre for young Gambians. They also had placements with organisations such as health centres, women's rights groups and the British Embassy.

The trips were supported by the university's international experience programme and Global Hands, a non-profit social enterprise, which Dr Sallah founded and chairs. But they were paid for by students' own fundraising, including a charity race in Leicester, Run for Africa.

The initiative has now been extended beyond Dr Sallah's own classes to allow other students to take part in community development that is linked to their own studies. For example, media students have gained experience at Gambia's only non-state radio station.

The judges said Dr Sallah's teaching was best summed up by one student's observation: "It changed my life." "An excellent case of truly innovative curriculum design, engaging students in deconstructing and reconstructing the curriculum, pushing the boundaries, and deepening students' understanding and appreciation of globalisation," the panel added.