



Submission

This award seeks out the institution that has best demonstrated that it encourages its students, staff and others to behave in an entrepreneurial and innovative fashion.

From a strong field, the judges named Coventry University the winner. They praised it for showing entrepreneurial flair across the campus and in its relationship with students, as well as demonstrating an impact on local businesses.

It has awarded 23 enterprise scholarships worth £2,000 to students, and more than 100 students have been supported in entrepreneurial activities by a team of 24 mentors. Other initiatives include annual entrepreneurialism prizes for staff, and performance reviews that encourage employees to innovate.

The university works with about 9,500 small and medium-sized enterprises, accounting for 37% of all such businesses that worked with universities in 2009-10.

It has also secured the maximum possible finding from the High Education Innovation Fun for the next four years, and is extending its efforts abroad by helping Oman and Nigeria to foster business incubation systems.

“It was clear from all the staff interviewed that an entrepreneurial culture permeates all levels of Coventry University,” said David S. Frost, executive chairman of the National Centre for Entrepreneurship in Education and a member of the judging panel.

“From the vice-chancellor there was a coherent analysis of the importance of entrepreneurial activity not only to the university and its students but also to the wider community and local economy. A combination of interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial institutes, physical developments, strong leadership, exciting international activity and lively engagement by staff and students provided the basis for selecting Coventry for the award.”