Awards Criteria Handbook 2019/2020

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Introduction & FAQ

The Student Opportunities Awards celebrate all our students' amazing achievements from this academic year. We know that under the current circumstances, you might not feel much like celebrating - but there's still so much for everyone to be proud of, and it's now more important than ever to support each other and recognise our strengths!

We're really disappointed not to be able to hold our celebrations in-person this year, but we are working hard to make sure that the online alternative will be just as fantastic! We're dedicated to ensuring that none of our students miss out on the recognition they deserve, and we'll be bringing you the new plans for the celebrations soon.

This year, the Student Opportunities Awards are split into two categories:

Student Group Awards, which celebrate the amazing events, campaigns, achievements and progress made by our Student Groups. We're excited to announce a fantastic prize fund this year, with award winners receiving up to £150 investment into their Student Group that they can use towards new equipment, events, projects etc.

Volunteering & Fundraising Awards, which recognise all of the incredible efforts made for charities, the community, and fellow students. As part of this, we're excited to announce a brand new award this year for our volunteer [Peer Mentors](#)!

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS

Nominations close on **Sunday 3rd May at 11:59pm**. You can make as nominations as you like, for as many awards as you like.

Remember: the more detail and information you provide for the different criteria, the more reason our panel will have to choose them as the winner!

We welcome nominations from everyone in the University community, including staff members, students who aren't a member of any student groups, students who don't volunteer, etc. And yes, **you can nominate yourself** – in fact, we encourage it!

There will be three finalists and one overall winner for each award.

If you have any questions with the awards or nominations process, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at unionactivities@le.ac.uk

Student Group Awards

Student Group Event of the Year

Criteria:

- Evidence of a well-run event/trip with good organisation from Committee Members. This includes good marketing of the event, and adhering to Students' Union processes, for example submitting relevant forms for the event/trip.
- Evidence of the event/trip contributing to the Student Group's development, for example by an increase in membership, achieving a Constitutional aim, raising funds for the Student Group, etc.
- Worked to ensure that the event was accessible to all students and promoted inclusivity.
- Evidence of the Student Group playing an active part in the Students' Union and/or University community.

Outstanding Contribution to Community

Criteria:

- Evidence of the Student Group making an outstanding contribution to any community, for example the local area, the University community, or even worldwide.
- Evidence of good organisation from Committee Members. This includes adhering to Students' Union processes, for example submitting relevant forms for Student Group events.
- Worked to ensure that the project was accessible to all students and promoted inclusivity.
- Evidence of the Student Group playing an active part in the Students' Union and/or University community.

Student Group Collaboration of the Year

Criteria:

- Evidence of a well-run collaboration between two or more affiliated Student Groups, with good organisation from all Committee Members involved. This includes good marketing of the collaboration, and adhering to Students' Union processes, for example submitting relevant forms for guest speakers.
- Evidence of the collaboration contributing to the Student Groups' development, for example by an achieving a Constitutional aim, benefitting the local/University community, raising money for charity, etc.
- Worked to ensure that the collaboration was accessible to all students and promoted inclusivity.
- Evidence of the Student Group playing an active part in the Students' Union and/or University community.

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New Student Group of the Year

Criteria:

- Must have been affiliated with the Students' Union in (or for) the 2019/2020 Academic Year.
- Evidence of Student Group development, for example through growing membership, raising funds for the Student Group, etc.
- Evidence of plans for sustainable growth into the 2020/2021 academic year.
- Evidence that the Student Group is making progress towards its aims and objectives as outlined in its Constitution.
- Evidence of a well-run Student Group with good organisation from Committee Members. This includes adhering to Students' Union processes, for example submitting relevant forms for Student Group events.
- Worked to ensure that the Student Group is accessible to all students and promotes inclusivity.
- Evidence of the Student Group playing an active part in the Students' Union and/or University community.

Student Group Campaign of the Year

Criteria:

- Evidence of a well-run campaign with good organisation from Committee Members. This includes good marketing of the campaign, and adhering to Students' Union processes, for example submitting relevant forms for guest speakers.
- Evidence of the campaign contributing to the Student Group's development, for example by an achieving a Constitutional aim, benefitting the local/University community, raising money for charity, etc.
- Worked to ensure that the campaign was accessible to all students and promoted inclusivity.
- Evidence of the Student Group playing an active part in the Students' Union and/or University community.

Student Group Development of the Year

Criteria:

- Evidence of efforts to develop the Student Group for example growing membership, increased turnout for events, engaging with the Students' Union/University, etc.
- Evidence of plans for sustainable growth into the 2020/21 academic year.
- Evidence that the Student Group is making progress towards its aims and objectives as outlined in its Constitution.
- Evidence of a well-run Student Group with improved organisation from Committee Members. This includes adhering to Students' Union processes, for example submitting relevant forms for Student Group events.
- Worked to ensure that the Student Group is accessible to all students and promotes inclusivity.
- Evidence of the Student Group playing an active part in the Students' Union and/or University community.

Student Group of the Year Awards

All Student Groups are eligible for **one** of the following six awards, depending on which [category](#) the group falls under:

- **Academic and Politics** Student Group of the Year
- **Charity, Support and Campaigning** Student Group of the Year
- **Common Interest** Student Group of the Year
- **National, Cultural and Faith** Student Group of the Year
- **Performance and Media** Student Group of the Year
- **Sport and Team Leicester** Student Group of the Year

There is also an overall **Student Group of the Year Award**, which will be chosen from the pool of nominations made for the Student Group Categories (above).

The criteria for all of these awards is the same:

- Evidence that the Student Group is achieving and/or exceeding its aims and objectives as outlined in its Constitution.
- Evidence of a well-run Student Group with good organisation from Committee Members. This includes adhering to Students' Union processes, for example submitting relevant forms for Student Group events.
- Worked to ensure that the Student Group is accessible to all students and promotes inclusivity.
- Evidence of the Student Group playing an active part in the Students' Union and/or University community.
- Evidence of Student Group development and plans for sustainable growth into the 2020/21 academic year.

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Volunteering & Fundraising Awards

Frank May Cup for Volunteering

The prestigious Frank May Cup is awarded to a student volunteer who has made a positive contribution to the University and wider community through volunteering. Students in this category have demonstrated outstanding commitment by volunteering on a regular basis and going above and beyond the expected requirements. Students can evidenced their impact to the cause(s), as well as their own personal development. To count towards this award, volunteering must have been done on an unpaid basis within the past 12 months.

Criteria:

- Demonstrates passion and motivation to making a positive impact through volunteering.
- Demonstrates commitment, having volunteered on a regular basis and/or over a period of time.
- Has gone above and beyond expectations, for instance by taking a leadership role or expanding an existing project.
- Demonstrates personal development from volunteering, with the ability to self-reflect and show what they have learned.

Peer Mentor of the Year

Criteria:

- Must have completed the Peer Mentoring Scheme 2019/20 as a Mentor
- Evidence of high quality emails sent as part of the scheme
- Evidence of additional engagement with Mentees during the scheme this year and/or continuing engagement with Mentees from a previous year
- Evidence of going above and beyond in efforts to support Mentees

Please note that work as a Lead Mentor or other Students' Union position does not exclude you from this award, but any paid work will not count towards the award.

RAG (Raise and Give) Award

This award recognises an individual, group of students, or affiliated Student Group, that have gone above and beyond in raising money for external charity/ies.

Criteria:

- Successful charity fundraising completed in line with UK Charity Law and Students' Union processes, e.g. completion of the Charity Donation Form.
- Evidence of well-run, innovative charity fundraising with good organisation from students. This includes good marketing of the fundraising, and adhering to Students' Union processes, for example submitting relevant forms for an event.
- Worked to ensure that the fundraising was accessible to all students and promoted inclusivity.
- Evidence of the student(s) playing an active part in the Students' Union and/or University community.

Volunteering Project of the Year

This award recognises an individual, group of students, or affiliated Student Group, that have worked to develop a volunteering project.

Criteria:

- Evidence of a well-run volunteering project with good organisation from the organiser(s). This includes good marketing of the project, and adhering to Students' Union processes, for example submitting relevant forms for a Student Group event.
- Evidence of a positive impact on the community, or factor that the volunteering project seeks to impact. The volunteering project provides meaningful development opportunities, skills and/or experience for all volunteers involved.
- Evidence of planning which considers the sustainability of the project and its financial effectiveness. Ability of the project organiser(s) to evaluate and report on the outcomes of the project, and suggest improvements for the future.
- Worked to ensure that the volunteering project was accessible to all students and promoted inclusivity.
- Evidence of the organiser(s) playing an active part in the Students' Union and/or University community.

Peer Support Award

This award recognises an individual, group of students, or affiliated Student Group, that have improved the University community by supporting their fellow students.

Criteria:

- Demonstrated passion and motivation to making a positive impact to the University community through volunteering to support fellow students. Evidence of a positive change in the University community (even on a small scale).
- The students involved demonstrated commitment, having volunteered on a regular basis and/or over a period of time. Going above and beyond expectations, for instance by taking a leadership role, expanding an existing project, or creating a new one.
- Evidence that the students involved can evaluate and report on the outcomes of their volunteering, and suggest improvements for the future.
- The students involved can demonstrate personal development from volunteering, with the ability to self-reflect and show what they have learned.

Volunteering Partner of the Year

Criteria:

- A registered Volunteering Provider who offers meaningful volunteering opportunities that allow students to expand their skills and personal growth.
- Evidence of good engagement with the Students' Union, for example promoting volunteering vacancies on the online portal, attending the Volunteering Fair and Providers' Morning events, etc.
- Providing excellent service for student volunteers, such as good communication throughout the placement, feedback on skills development, additional training, etc.