

STaR Awards 2026 – Staff Awards Criteria

PAT of the Year - Eligible: Personal Academic Tutors (PATs).

You might want to include in your nomination:

- How has your PAT supported you this year?
- Has your PAT advocated for you?
- How has your PAT demonstrated their care for students?

Support Staff of the year - Eligible: Professional Services / Support Staff e.g., Librarians, Effective Learning Services (ELS), Students' Union

You might want to include in your nomination:

- How did this staff member encourage you?
- Did this staff member go out of their way to help?
- How did they make your student experience more positive?
- What did they do to demonstrate care for students in challenging circumstances?

Research staff of the year - Eligible: Academic Staff e.g. Dissertation supervisors, PHD supervisors

You might want to include in your nomination:

- What did this staff member do to guide you to become independent in writing your dissertation, thesis or research project?
- Did they encourage you to think critically or outside the box?
- How did they offer you support throughout the research process?

Module / Programme of the Year - Eligible: Individual modules that run for one semester or a full year

You might want to include in your nomination:

- What made this module stand out from others?
- How did the teaching staff engage you in the content?

- What did you find particularly interesting?
- Were there any teaching methods you found really useful or that changed your perspective?

Excellence in teaching - Eligible: Academic staff

You might want to include in your nomination:

- How did this lecturer engage you in the course content?
- What did they do to make the subject accessible to understand?
- What did they do to make all students feel included?
- How did they get you excited about the topic?
- What kind of feedback did they provide that helped you build on your learning?

Outstanding Commitment to Academic Inclusivity - Eligible: Academic Staff

You might want to include in your nomination:

- How do they create a welcoming and inclusive environment?
- Do they make an effort to tailor learning materials and class activities to the objectives of the course?
- Does this lecturer create activities which diversify the content of teaching?
- Do they provide supplementary learning materials which are inclusive and accessible to all?
- Do they treat students' contributions as valuable?

The Douglas Award – Most Inspirational Staff Member within the School of Health Sciences (HS)

Staff Eligible: Academic Staff within the School of Health Sciences

- Has an encouraging influence on students' journey at university
- Goes above and beyond expectations
- Demonstrates dedication to providing an excellent student experience

The Jamie Hayes Award - Most Inspirational Staff Member within the School of Arts, Social Sciences and Management (ASSaM)

Staff Eligible: Academic Staff within the School of ASSaM

- Has an encouraging influence on students' journey at university
- Goes above and beyond expectations
- Demonstrates dedication to providing an excellent student experience