

## Union Ball Award Descriptions 2023 - 2024

### SOCIETY STRIPES

The University of Surrey Students' Union award Society Stripes to recognise the invaluable work of students who have made outstanding contribution to the running, operation and activity of a Society.

Every attempt has been made to standardise the level of the Society Stripes awards recognising that standards within and across societies may vary.

Society Stripes are usually given to students who are in the final year of study. Exceptionally, students who do not fall under this criterion will be considered for a Society Stripes award at the discretion of the Committee.

Society Stripes are only awarded to students who are due to complete their academic course. If you have failed a year while at Surrey, any criteria you achieved during that year will be discounted.

Please note that society service refers to being a fully enrolled student at the University and a signed up member of the society.

Society Stripes are awarded to students who have provided an outstanding contribution to the running, administration, operation, and activity of their society for **at least three years**. The individual must have at least one year's committee service.

Society Stripes may also be awarded to individuals who have shown outstanding loyalty, commitment, support and dedication in representing their society.

The committee are looking for students who have gone above and beyond what is required of them and demonstrated an unparalleled dedication to their society. Holding an important committee position is **not** an automatic qualification for Society Stripes.

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

#### Gold DofE Winners

#### Best Newcomer

This award recognises a student that has not previously actively involved in the Student's Union and its activities and has over the past academic year become a valuable addition to the team. The focus of this award is to reward the impact this student has made on student experience and university life through their role in the Union, including being proactive and engaged, being efficient and successful in completing tasks or going above and beyond in their work and involvement (NB: part time staff, part time officers, volunteers or committee members are eligible for this award if nominated for work directly related to the Student's Union).

#### John Hoborough Award for Volunteer of the Year

This award is given to an individual who has gone above and beyond in volunteering. Nominations for this award will take into consideration the nominee's – hours submitted, amount of volunteering opportunities applied for, that they are **graduating in the year of award ceremony**, commitment, enthusiasm and positivity, promotion of volunteering opportunities to others and organisation of

volunteering events, making a difference to the student population, Surrey community and beyond. (NB: Clubs and Societies are **not eligible** for this award)

### **Sam Bull Award for Outstanding Contribution to Wellbeing**

This award goes to a student who has made an outstanding contribution to the Wellbeing services of the University and/or Union or took an active role in improving wellbeing aspects affecting the wider student population.

This may be through the development of new projects, leading evolution of existing services, playing a key role in the continuation services through training, development and support of other students or dedicated and exceptional service to current schemes provided by the University and/or Union.

The winner will have made significant contributions beyond that of the average student in one or more services, being someone who can demonstrate their involvement, impact and passion for the services.

### **Student Run Event of the Year**

This award will be presented to a student or a group of students that organised or led on organising an event that had a positive impact on the wider student population or the wider community. The key factors considered include excellent planning and organisation, enthusiasm and innovation, collaboration with the Student's Union or making use of the expertise relevant staff, advertisement of the event and the final successful outcomes (e.g.: number of attendees, financial considerations / amount of money raise, the uniqueness of the event idea, overall positive impact).

### **The Liberation Award**

Awarded to a student who has had a significant positive impact on the student community at Surrey through matters relating to equality, diversity, and inclusion. These may include improving student belonging, representing the interests of different student groups to improve their academic or social experience at University, or by bringing awareness to issues which impact different parts of the student community.

### **Course Rep of the Year**

This award will be presented to a Course Representative who has demonstrated an outstanding contribution and efforts in representing students. Features of an outstanding contribution as a Course Rep include consistently engaging students and highlighting the student voice, collaborating successfully with University or Union staff to achieve change for students, or improving a sense of community within their department.

### **The Lynne Millward Award for Academic Staff Member of the Year**

Presented to an academic member of staff (including PGRs who teach) who has provided outstanding contribution to the academic experience for students at Surrey. This could include through innovative or inclusive teaching, successfully developing students' skills and knowledge, or undertaking quality research which has directly enhanced the quality of teaching and learning or academic reputation of the University.

### **Personal Tutor of the Year**

This award is presented to a Personal Tutor who has made a significant positive impact on their tutees or the wider student community at Surrey. Factors for recognition as having made a significant positive impact may include consistent, high quality provision of academic or pastoral support to tutees,

demonstrating Union values such as being approachable and supportive, or by working to improve the Personal Tutoring programme.

### **Outstanding Contribution to Postgraduate Experience**

Awarded to a student who has made an outstanding contribution to the experience of Postgraduate students at Surrey. This may be by enhancing the Postgraduate academic or social experience, through collaboration with the Doctoral College, or by contributing to the work of the Union and Union activities in representing Postgraduate students' interests.

### **Vice Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to University Life**

This award celebrates the invaluable contribution that students make to University life and the wider community.

To be eligible for this award you must be a final year student who fulfils many of the qualities mentioned in each of the award categories and is generally a "stand-out" student.

The Vice-Chancellor will be looking for a student who has contributed to their University experience and that of others, and a student who will be leaving a lasting legacy at the University when they graduate. It is essential that each nomination provides clear examples of the lasting positive impact this student has had on their student life and that of others. The VC will be looking for an exceptional winner, who embodies what it means to be a University of Surrey student. This award carries a fantastic cash prize of £1000!

**Each winner of the individual awards shall be automatically shortlisted into this category.**

## **SOCIETY AWARDS**

### **Society Signatory of the Year**

This will be awarded to a society signatory committee member that has demonstrated outstanding commitment their society, displayed excellent leadership skills, promoted teamwork, communication and collaboration within the committee and members and ultimately going beyond the normal call of duty of their role's description. This individual must demonstrate the impact their work and work ethic have made on the committee, the society members and the wider student population and ideally directly be at the core of influencing the success of the society over the past academic year.

### **Society Member of the Year**

This will be awarded to any society regular member OR non-signatory committee member who showed continuous dedication the society and its success. The nominees must demonstrate going beyond the normal expectations of their role (in the case of non-signatory committee members) or showed proactiveness and initiative in revamping or developing the society. For non-committee members, the focus is on demonstrating a high level of enthusiasm about the society, volunteered to help the committee from the outside and overall positively impacted the activity of the society through the year.

### **Activity Cup**

The Activity Cup award is given to an individual who has made the greatest contribution to the participation and organisation of a number of societies in the past academic year. The key factors

considered include holding multiple society committee positions, dedicated extensive time and effort to these societies and having an active contribution to the running, development and success of the groups involved in.

### **Best New Society of the Year**

This award is exclusively for societies that were ratified in the current academic year. Nominees should showcase how they stand out from other societies in the same category and detail the positive impact they have made on the student community since being ratified. Examples of this could include encouraging participation, promoting cultural diversity and understanding, good organisational skills and commitment to setting up a solid foundation for the society to develop further. (NB: when shortlisting, the SU will recheck that all admin set-up tasks were completed; e.g. setting up a membership on the website)

### **Most Improved Society**

This award recognises the sustained efforts of a society that has demonstrated significant growth and development over the past academic year. The award takes into account the society's ability to demonstrate innovative and effective strategies for attracting new members and engaging with their audience, the quality of their events and activities, the level of improvement in their operations, and the impact they have had on their members and the broader community. An increase in the number of members alone is not enough to be shortlisted for this award. Details of the specific changes or visible comparisons to previous years should be included in the nomination. The nominees should demonstrate a clear and significant change from the previous year and a strong commitment to continuous improvement in the future.

### **Xilombe Tlakula Fundraiser of the Year (Society, not Individual)**

This award recognises societies that have dedicated a considerable amount of time, resources and commitment to fundraising over the past academic year. When shortlisting for this award, time, effort and funds raised will be considered as a whole – raising the most amount of money is not always enough to win.

Please list the following details: amount of money raised, charities the funds were donated to, the type of events / initiatives ran in order to complete fundraising and the dates this was done on. (NB: all donations must be done through the RAG account and confirmed by the RAG Chair/ VP Community)

*The Fundraiser of the Year award has been named in honour of Xilombe Tlakula, a 20-year-old University of Surrey Student who was the founder of the NGO Limitless Foundation and died of cardiac failure in 2018.*

### **The Community Cup**

Awarded to the society who has made considerable commitments to volunteering and outreach work within the community over the past academic year. Please highlight evidence of hours volunteered as a society, number of members involved and impact on the student body or the wider community.

Please list the following details: the type of community work undertaken, including dates, community project names, number of members involved, rough estimate of volunteering hours spent. Please also include the impact this work has had on the community, who benefited from it and how it was

beneficial (this can include testimonials or quotes) and where possible, supporting evidence of the scale of positive impact on the local community.

### **Alan Sutherland Award**

This award recognises societies that have made a conscious effort in sustainability, planning well for the future, good management of own funds and general finances and preparation of comprehensive handover materials. A successful society committee ensures that the transition into the next academic year is as smooth as possible and takes regular steps throughout the year to ensure that will be achieved.

### **Society of the Year**

This award recognises the societies that have demonstrated excellence in all areas of operation and made a significant contribution to its members and the wider community. The nominated societies should have achieved their objectives and made a positive impact on its members, the university, and the broader community. The criteria considered include the society's ability to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for its members, the effectiveness of its leadership and committee members, the quality of its events and activities, and the level of engagement with its members and the community. Successful applications should detail the work of a society that demonstrates a high level of creativity, innovation, and teamwork in their organization and should have established themselves as a leading society at Surrey. (NB achieving Gold STARS can be a good start for this award).