



Union Ball Awards Pack 2024 – 25

Welcome to your Union Awards Pack!

It's that time of year again when we come together to celebrate your incredible achievements. The Students' Union Awards is a highlight of the year, a special event dedicated to recognising the hard work, passion, and commitment that you, our students, bring to your Societies, Support Services, and/or the Students' Union as a whole. We also use this event to recognise key members of staff at the University of Surrey who support you.

Inside this pack, you'll find all the information you need about the awards on offer, including the criteria for each. Whether it's for your own outstanding efforts or someone else's remarkable contributions, this is your chance to shine a spotlight on the individuals and societies who deserve to be recognised. Submit your nominations and help us celebrate the exceptional work happening across our Surrey community!

There are 5 types of Awards you can nominate for (and potentially win!) at this event:

- Society Stripes
- Individual Awards
- Society Awards
- Volunteering Awards
- STARS

If you have any questions or need assistance, the Activities Manager is here to help. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to celebrating with you at this exciting event!

Warm regards,

Your Students' Union





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



Best Newcomer Award

This award recognises a student that has not previously been 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*).

Course Rep of the Year

This award will be presented to a Course Representative who has demonstrated an outstanding contribution and effort towards representing students on their course. Features of an outstanding contribution as a Course Rep include consistently engaging with students to gather feedback, collaborating successfully with University or Union staff to achieve change for students, or improving a sense of community within their department.

Head Rep of the Year

This award will be presented to a Head Representative who has made an outstanding contribution to the academic life of their School/Department. This may include providing excellent support and leadership to the Course Reps in their area, successful collaboration with University or Union staff to advocate on behalf of students, or taking a lead on creating a sense of community across the School. Head Rep of the Year will be an individual who has stepped up as an exceptional student leader and who has had a visible impact within their School.

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*)

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.

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.

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 departments or services, playing a key role in the continuation of services through training, development and support of other students. The winner will have made significant contributions to student wellbeing beyond that of the average student.

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 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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 to 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.

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.

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 verified by the SU Finance team)

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.

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).

Volunteering Awards



Alongside the Union Awards, we also have a separate category specifically dedicated to our volunteers. Throughout your time at university, you all have volunteered countless hours and contributed significantly to the student experience, whether that be for your Society, a Union-led event or Student Support Service. Here are the categories to either nominate yourself or someone you know:

Bronze Award

Awarded to those who have volunteered over 100 hours within the Students' Union.

Silver Award

Awarded to those who have volunteered over 200 hours within the Students' Union.

Gold Award

Awarded to those who have volunteered over 300 hours within the Students' Union.

Platinum Award

Awarded to those who have volunteered over 500 hours within the Students' Union.

Diamond Award

Awarded to those who have volunteered over 1000 hours within the Students' Union.

Greatest Impact Student Volunteering Award

This award recognises a student who has volunteered and made a huge difference and impact through numerous volunteering opportunities to students and the wider community.

Justice, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Award

This award recognises the student volunteer who has made a significant contribution to supporting under-represented groups.

The Support Zone run three amazing support services: Nightline, Welfare Watch and Talk Together (previously known as Student Minds) which cannot operate without our amazing volunteers. The awards for these services are:

Outstanding Contribution to Talk Together

Outstanding Contribution to Nightline

Outstanding Contribution to Welfare Watch

Outstanding Contribution to Visibility

Committee Member of a Union Support Service of the year

STARS (Societies Training & Activities Rewards Scheme)

The **STARS** awards are a wonderful scheme for clubs and societies to truly showcase how they go above and beyond.

Clubs and Societies can complete various tasks to work their way towards Bronze, Silver and Gold STARS, from completing basic admin and duties, to getting involved in Union Campaigns, RAG and Volunteering.

If a club or society wants to truly go above and beyond, and achieve all criteria, they will be awarded **"Gold Stars"**; an award which will be received at their respective end of year Awards ceremony. The Gold Stars award is highly commendable, and will show off to students and staff that their club or society is of high standard. Please check your criteria [here](#) and then submit your nomination to be awarded at the Union Awards!