2024 Usher Institute Annual Recognition Awards Guidance

- The 2024 Usher Institute Annual Recognition Awards are presented in five categories.
- Nominations will be received and considered by the corresponding committee within the Usher Institute, with recommendations conveyed by the committee chair(s)/lead(s) to the Usher Executive.
- Nominations are not de-identified nor anonymized. Nominees will have access to their nominations.
- An honorarium (value: £200 for winner and £100 for runner up) and certificate will be awarded for each category.
- Awards will be presented at the Usher End of Year Celebration event on 04 December 2024.

Eligibility

The Awards are open to all academic, research, teaching and professional services staff who are employed within the Usher Institute, and students who are supervised within the Usher Institute, as of the closing date (Wednesday 06 November). *All awards welcome nominations from all career stages, from early-career to senior levels, recognising the diverse ways individuals contribute to fostering excellence within and beyond the Institute.*

Nominations should cover work carried out within the previous 12 months. Nominations can be submitted by anyone - including any staff or student from across the University as well as anyone that works with us.

An individual may not win in the same category in two consecutive years. Winners of last year's Usher Institute Recognition Awards are thus automatically ineligible for consideration under the same/equivalent category this year.

Categories

Excellent Contribution to Usher Culture

We know just how important a strong community is - in terms of building an effective and collegial environment in which academic and professional services staff, students and visitors can feel included and have the support required to do their best work.

This Award will recognise the achievements of an individual who has made substantial contributions to building a supportive, inclusive environment. This could include activities that foster meaningful relationships with colleagues, students and/or public members.

Nominations reviewed by Usher ED&I Committee Chair and the Usher PPIE Lead (Helen Eborall and Tracy Jackson)

Excellent Student Contribution to Usher

This award seeks to recognise a student who has made a significant contribution to the Usher Institute. The contribution could be scholarly, innovative, programmatic, operational, or simply a great idea that they have worked effectively and enthusiastically to implement.

Nominations reviewed by the Usher Education Committee under joint leadership of the Co-Directors of Education (Michelle Evans & Jeni Harden)

Excellence in Teaching and Learning

This award seeks to recognise an individual who has modelled excellence in teaching and learning, putting pedagogy, curriculum, and/or the student experience at the forefront of their way of working. This person may have created an environment, or delivered a course, programme, event, or activity that supports or promotes a positive teaching and learning culture and/or outcome within the Usher Institute.

Nominations reviewed by the Usher Education Committee under joint leadership of the Co-Directors of Education (Michelle Evans & Jeni Harden)

Excellence in Research

This award seeks to recognise an individual who has modelled excellence in research and scholarship, including putting positive and inclusive research culture at the forefront of their way of working. This person will have contributed significantly to advancing the state-of-the-science or the state-of-the-art, achieving groundbreaking discoveries.

Nominations reviewed by the Usher Research Committee under leadership of the Committee Chair (Fiona Dobbie)

Excellence in Innovation and Engagement

This Award seeks to recognise an individual within the Usher Institute who has modelled excellence in innovation and engagement. The recipient will have made a significant contribution by creating or supporting an environment, activity, product, process, or programme that promotes a positive culture of innovation and engagement. This may include achieving notable innovation outcomes (such as invention disclosures, patents or substantial involvement in start-ups) or engaging with external partners, resulting in tangible outcomes. We encourage applications that reflect both early-stage initiatives and fully-realised outcomes.

Nominations reviewed by the Usher Innovation Committee under the leadership of the Committee Chair (Ahmar Shah)

How to apply

Complete the [online nomination form](#)

Applications should demonstrate:

- Significant and measurable effect on target audience/partners
- Feedback mechanisms/evidence of reflection of staff/students involved
- Concrete examples of work or activities introduced and its impact are extremely helpful

Any questions?

Email: usher.communications@ed.ac.uk