

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AWARDS 2019

MANCHESTER

JUDGING CRITERIA

Each entry is a maximum
of 500 words

BEST SOCIETY

This award is given to the society considered the best across all categories and all students' unions in the United Kingdom.

- + Have met the needs of their members and positively enhanced their experience
- + Are well organised and have managed finances professionally throughout the academic year
- + Have been innovative in how they engaged their members and have tried to diversify their membership
- + Activities of the society have empowered their members to improve their University community, local society, the environment or had another substantial impact
- + Made excellent use of SU initiatives and resources
- + Provided evidence of good handover planning to their successors to ensure the sustainability of the society
- + Collaborated with other student groups
- + Has developed an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students
- + Have already been recognised by their students' union, college, university or other external body (for example being nominated for a students' union award, reaching a high tier/level for their development, having sabbatical officer endorsement, winning another NUS award)

BEST ACADEMIC SOCIETY

This award is given to the Society that have enhanced the academic experience for their members. Examples of this would include societies that focus on giving students help with their studies through arranging guest lectures, or improving their employability prospects by inviting potential employers to networking events with students.

- + Gone the extra mile to ensure members feel settled within their course
- + Attracted members across different study types where possible
- + Organised a variety of events which complements the field of study the society is related to
- + Improved employability prospects for their members
- + Good communicational links with their department/school/university/college
- + Worked with external partners that are relevant academically

BEST ARTS SOCIETY

This award is given to the Society that most successfully encourages either participation or performance in the arts, and is for both recreational, performance and competitive groups.

- + Organised a variety of creative and innovative events
- + Worked hard to encourage participation of members or a high standard of achievement
- + Positive contribution to the arts through showcasing of talents
- + Provided opportunities for members to improve their talents and skills through working with others

BEST FUNDRAISING/ CAMPAIGNING SOCIETY

This award is given to the Society that has made the best contribution to either a Campaign; Project or Initiative, or the work of a charity, making a positive impact at their institution, in their local community or further afield.

- + Organised a wide range of successful events
- + Worked hard to ensure increased awareness or engagement with their cause
- + Had a positive influence on local decision-makers
- + Was student-led and run by the Society themselves
- + Had a measurable impact on particular groups of people
- + Made a tangible and measurable contribution through their work
- + Supported the work of either local or national charities or issues
- + Has inspired other students to participate in their cause

BEST CULTURAL & FAITH SOCIETY

This award is given to the Society that most successfully celebrates a culture or faith across the year. This includes faith groups or any group that defines itself as celebrating a culture.

- + Gone the extra mile to ensure members feel settled at their institution
- + Organised a variety of events which helped to educate or raise awareness of their chosen faith or culture at their institution
- + Supported those from their culture or faith at their institution
- + Positively created an intercultural/ interfaith dialogue at their institution
- + Has engaged positively with community groups who align with their chosen faith or culture

FE AWARD

This is awarded for the best Society, Social Action, Campaign, Volunteering or Event at a Further Education institution.

- + Have met the needs of their members and positively enhanced their experience
- + Have been innovative in how they have engaged their members
- + The activity was student-led
- + Activity has in some way empowered their members to either achieve more as an individual or improve their University community
- + Made excellent use of SU initiatives and resources
- + Worked hard to ensure increased awareness or engagement with their cause
- + The activity developed an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students
- + Was an innovative and unique activity
- + Was well planned, publicised and executed taking safety implications into account
- + The activity inspired other Students to lead their own activity

BEST HOBBY & INTEREST SOCIETY

This award is given to the Society that has best represented their hobby or interest to students at their institution or across the country, and covers both competitive and recreational groups.

- + Organised a variety of events
- + Worked hard to encourage participation of members or a high standard of achievement
- + Promoted and celebrated the unique qualities that your Society brings to your institution
- + Ran activities that are appropriate for different levels of interest and skill
- + Celebrated the shared interest that unifies and brings together the members of your Society

BEST MEDIA SOCIETY

This award is given to the Society that has consistently across the year delivered the best student led media output. Examples of this can include newspaper, radio, magazines, podcasts and other digital media.

- + High levels of creativity and innovation in the content produced
- + Created content which appeals to and is consumed by a diverse range of students
- + Worked collaboratively on coverage with other media groups at their institution
- + Have helped to promote student life on campus by working with other societies, sports clubs and their Students Union.
- + Demonstrated a long lasting strategy and vision for the future of the group
- + Have invested time in training and developing the skills of both new and existing members of the society

BEST NEW SOCIETY

This award is for the best new Society considered to have gone the extra mile since affiliation (in the past 18 months).

- + Fully achieved the aims of the society
- + Managed finances professionally throughout the academic year
- + Activities of the Society have in some way empowered their members to either achieve more as an individual or positively impact on their University community
- + Made excellent use of SU initiatives and resources
- + Focused efforts on gaining membership and securing the longevity of the society
- + Provided evidence of realistic planning for both short term and long term aims
- + Held multiple events to raise awareness of the society

BEST SOCIETY EVENT

This award is given to the Society who runs the best event, which is seen to fulfil the criteria below. Examples can include trips, on-campus events, and external/community based events.

- + Was student-led and run by the Society themselves
- + Had good financial planning
- + Fulfilled at least one aim of the Society
- + Engaged a both members and non-members of the society and was open and accessible to all
- + Was an innovative and unique event
- + Was well planned, publicised and executed taking safety implications into account
- + The event inspired other Student groups to lead their own event(s)

INDIVIDUAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

This award is for a committee member who has gone above and beyond in the delivery of their role within their Society throughout the year to help ensure smooth running and continued success.

- + Has driven a significant change or achievement in the Society
- + Has been a positive ambassador and role model for their Society
- + Has shown outstanding commitment to their Society
- + Has engaged positively with their Students' Union, Committee members and Society members
- + Has made a conscious effort to ensure their society is accessible and welcoming for all
- + Has inspired other students to take up a society committee role in the future
- + Must be a current student or recent graduate

MOST IMPROVED SOCIETY

This award is given to the Society considered to have improved the most this academic year. The Society should have achieved as many of the below factors as possible.

- + Significantly increased the activity of the Society as a whole
- + Improved the opportunities and quality of events run by the Society
- + Noticeably improved the Society to fulfil aims and objectives
- + Improved the management of finances
- + Improved usage of, and interaction with, SU resources and initiatives
- + Can demonstrate positive change in how they have engaged with their members
- + Show planning for long term development, improvement and sustainability