

Nomination pack: Alliance Awards 2025

In partnership with the University of Hertfordshire

Sponsored by UCAS, Duolingo, The Doctoral Training Alliance and Technology One

Recognising excellence in the work of individuals and teams across the University Alliance

Nominations open: 00:01, 3 March 2025

Nomination deadline: 23:59, 17 April 2025

Awards ceremony: 18 September 2025

[MAKE A NOMINATION HERE](#)

About the awards

Now in their sixth year, we're excited to announce the return of the Alliance Awards! The awards are our chance to celebrate the hard work and dedication of colleagues and teams across the University Alliance.

This year we're introducing brand new awards categories. You can find a full description of each category, alongside the judging criteria, below.

This year the Alliance Awards will be delivered in partnership with our generous hosts the [University of Hertfordshire](#).

Who can make a nomination?

Anyone can make a nomination for the Alliance Awards, whether you are part of an Alliance institution or not. [You can see a full list of University Alliance member universities here.](#)

Who can I nominate?

You can nominate individuals, teams or yourself, provided that those being nominated are part of a [University Alliance institution](#) (**this does not apply to the DTA Alumni Award, where there are alumni from [other institutions](#) who are still eligible for nomination**)

University Alliance colleagues can be considered for any of the following categories. More information about each award can be found below.

- **Industry Partnerships Award**
- **Teaching Innovation Award**
- **Research and Innovation Impact Award**
- **Local Impact Award**
- **Heroes Award**
- **Equity and Opportunity Award**
- **Global Impact Award**
- **DTA Alumni Award**
- **Lifetime Achievement Award**

How can I nominate someone?

Please submit a nomination via our [Alliance Awards nomination form](#). If you are unable to submit a nomination via Survey Monkey, please contact awards@unialliance.ac.uk.

[Information about last year's nominees and winners can be found here.](#)

Guidance for submitting a nomination

Nominations can be for individuals or teams whose work best aligns with each category; they can be for particular projects and pieces of work, or for their personal contribution to your team or organisation.

The Awards categories and judging criteria

We use an independent panel of judges from across the higher education sector. Please see below the full list of awards and our criteria for judging below.

Industry Partnerships Award

Awarded for innovative university partnerships, with industry, business or with public sector organisations.

Judges will select a winner based on:

- The impact the nominated partnership has had, particularly on any of the below:
 - Teaching and learning within the institution, for example how industry expertise has informed and enhanced course curriculum, or any hands-on experience or training students have gained as a result of the partnership.
 - Regional economic growth and the local community, for example through job creation or successful funding bids for local initiatives.
 - Providing solutions that support organisations to better deliver their goals.
- The extent to which the individual or team responsible for the partnership went above and beyond what might reasonably be expected of them.
- Any measurable achievements or milestones.

Teaching Innovation Award

Awarded for innovative teaching practises that have markedly benefited students and the institution.

Judges will select a winner based on:

- The impact the nominee/nominated team has had, particularly on any of the below:
 - o Teaching and learning practises within HE more widely – with influence stretching beyond their own institution.
 - o Student participation and engagement.
 - o Improving the accessibility of teaching and assessment within their institution for students of all backgrounds and learning needs.
 - o Supporting students to develop career-ready skills.
- The extent to which the individual or team responsible went above and beyond to deliver innovation in their teaching practise.
- Any measurable achievements or milestones.

Research and Innovation Impact Award

Awarded for research and innovation which has had a tangible impact on the world around us.

Judges will select a winner based on:

- The impact the nominee/nominated team has had, particularly on any of the below:
 - o Bolstering prosperity and growth in the local region.
 - o The research has provided a solution to a pressing problem.
 - o The research has the potential to improve lives.
 - o The research has significantly advanced knowledge in particular area.
- The extent to which the individual or team responsible went above and beyond to deliver the research project.
- Any measurable achievements or milestones.

Local Impact Award

Awarded for work which has had a positive impact on a university's local or regional community.

Judges will select a winner based on:

- The impact the nominee/nominated team has had, for example by:
 - o Supporting organisations which benefit local residents
 - o Supporting local culture
 - o Providing access to services or facilities for local residents
 - o Improving the lives of local residents

- Any standout achievements or milestones reached by the nominated team or individual in their work within this area.
- The extent to which the individual or team responsible went above and beyond to achieve this work.

Heroes Award

Awarded to an individual or team who have gone above and beyond to help their institutions, staff and students to thrive.

Judges will select a winner based on:

- The impact the nominee/nominated team has had, particularly on any of the below:
 - o Initiatives that are sector-leading
 - o Creating and supporting a vibrant university community
 - o The mental and emotional wellbeing of staff and students.
 - o The smooth running and sustainability of the institution
- Any standout achievements or milestones reached by the nominated team or individual in their work within this area.
- The extent to which the individual or team responsible went above and beyond to achieve this work.

Equity and Opportunity Award

Awarded to an individual or team who has developed impactful initiatives to improve diversity, equity and opportunity at their institution.

Judges will select a winner based on:

- The impact the nominee or team has had, particularly on:
 - o The diversity of staff or students at their university.
 - o Ensuring their university is implementing anti-discriminatory policies.
 - o The accessibility of all courses at their institution to students from all backgrounds.
 - o Improving outcomes for all students.
- Any standout achievements or milestones reached by the nominated team or individual in their work within this area.
- The extent to which the individual or team responsible went above and beyond to achieve this work.

Global Impact Award

Awarded for international work which has had a positive impact globally. We encourage nominations that align with the Sustainable Development Goals.

The judges will select a winner based on:

- The impact the nominee or team has had, particularly on:
 - o Progress towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
 - o Improving the UK's relationship with the rest of the world – particularly in the sphere of education.
 - o Outstanding examples of Transnational Education or international partnerships.
- Any standout achievements or milestones reached by the nominated team or individual in their work within this area.
- The extent to which the individual or team responsible went above and beyond to achieve this work.

DTA Alumni Award

Awarded to the DTA alum who has demonstrated their commitment during and beyond their PhD to one of the following UA strategic pillars:

1) Innovation: taking an innovative approach and outlook to their doctoral studies and career pathways

2) Community: contributing to a sense of community during and/or beyond their PhD through supporting peers and local or global communities.

Lifetime Achievement Award

For the individual who has delivered a lifetime of exceptional service to their institution, students and to the higher education sector as a whole.

***Please note, we're asking University Alliance Vice-Chancellors to suggest nominations for this award to their teams. Nominations cannot be made through the standard nomination form. If this applies to you, please email awards@unialliance.ac.uk.*

[Read examples of nominations that were shortlisted by last year's judges here.](#)

NOTE: There is a 1,700 character limit for your nomination

NOTE: You are welcome to make more than one nomination for multiple categories. Please only nominate each of your nominees for one category.

NOTE: Part of the work you are nominating your nominee for must have happened in the past year (September 2024 – 2025) but your nomination can reference work that has spanned previous years as well.

[MAKE A NOMINATION HERE](#)