



**STUDENT LED TEACHING  
AWARDS REPORT  
2018/19**

## Preface

The Student Led Teaching Awards (SLTA's) enable students to acknowledge those exceptional University staff members who inspire, support and captivate their students. The scheme was first launched in the 2011/12 academic year to demonstrate areas of good practice to the University, and to provide a platform for students to voice what qualities they value most in their learning.

The SLTA's continue to develop our partnership with the University, whilst providing significant benefits for both parties. The scheme identifies the student perspective of good practice and student expectation, whilst contributing to the enhancement plans of the Colleges. Equally, The Union strongly believes that the highest quality learning experience is essential in extending the creativity and intellect of students. Therefore, we desire to see outstanding members of staff acknowledged for their work in the University. The Brunel Educational Excellence Centre (BEEC) has consistently provided support for these awards, for which we continue to be grateful.

The scheme ultimately provides the student population with the opportunity to recognise those extraordinary individuals that offer remarkable teaching and support. The awards demonstrate the impact of outstanding contributions of Brunel Staff on the student experience, whilst empowering and amplifying the student voice throughout Brunel.

### **The award categories for the 2018/19 Student Led Teaching Awards are:**

- Tutor/Supervisor of the Year Award (With College specific awards)
- Outstanding Feedback Award
- Lecturer of the Year Award (With College specific awards)
- Exceptional Support Staff Award
- Sustainability Champion Award
- Liberation, Equality and Diversity Champion Award

The Tutor/Supervisor of the year awards, along with the Lecturer of the year award are broken down into Colleges this year. This means that in each college one member of staff received this award.

The Equality and Diversity Champion Award is new to the 2019 awards. Previously the area was covered, with some limitations, under the Sustainability Champion Award. However, this year we wanted to individually recognise the important work of University Staff who honour their commitment to empowering under-represented groups in a pastoral role, within their work and in their own time. This award was created in partnership with the Student Success Project and Henrietta Spalding, Student Equality and Diversity Manager at Brunel.

This report aims to not only celebrate University staff, but also to disseminate the important and unique student perspective of good practice across Brunel.

## About the Student Led Teaching Awards

Brunel University London aspires to be a world class creative community that is inspired to work, think and learn together to meet the challenges of the future. The University is therefore committed to providing opportunities for high quality learning and teaching - and to seek excellence in this provision.

Every year the Union of Brunel Students acknowledges those lecturers and other members of University Staff that go above and beyond to inspire, challenge and engage their students through the Student Led Teaching Awards.

This is the 8th year that the SLTAs have been running, and we hope to utilise and build upon the success of this year's iteration, as well as those in previous years, to make the scheme as beneficial as possible for University and ultimately the students.

Nominations were open from January 14<sup>th</sup> through to February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019; and were accessible through the Union's website. Students were asked to write up to 500 words, explaining how their nominated member of staff met the criteria for the award(s) selected. There were a number of questions provided to support students in writing their nomination.

All nominations were sorted into awards and reviewed by a Selection Committee comprising of members of Student Assembly, Student Reps and the Vice Presidents of the Colleges. It is important to clearly point out that the awards were awarded based on the quality, not quantity, of nominations submitted, although large volumes of nominations for individuals or groups were taken into consideration.

The Selection Committee shortlisted each award into 3 Nominees, and each Nominee and nominator were invited to an Award Ceremony on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

All staff members who received a nomination were listed on the Union website and this was advertised through news stories. In addition, a document was placed on the Union website outlining all the nominees, and the shortlist, along with details of who had won what awards and what had been said about the winners.

The awards ceremony consisted of a two course sit down meal. All the shortlisted staff members were invited to attend, along with the students who nominated them. Key University staff members and Union representatives were also in attendance.

We also used the 2019 SLTA ceremony to celebrate Student Representatives. It was felt that it was the perfect place to celebrate both Staff and Students achievements in improving the academic experience rather than doing so in split ceremonies, when the rep system is all about partnership.

## 2019 Awards

289 nominations were received from undergraduate and postgraduate students across the three Colleges; College of Health and Life Sciences (CHLS), College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences (CBASS) and the College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences. As in previous years, the award that received the highest number of nominations was the Award centred on teaching, with over half of the total. The breakdown of the nominations between the different awards can be seen in the table below.

Lecturer of the Year	152
Tutor/Supervisor of the Year	87
Outstanding Feedback of the Year	8
Exceptional Support Staff	28
Sustainability Champion Award	5
Liberation, Equality and Diversity Champion Award	5

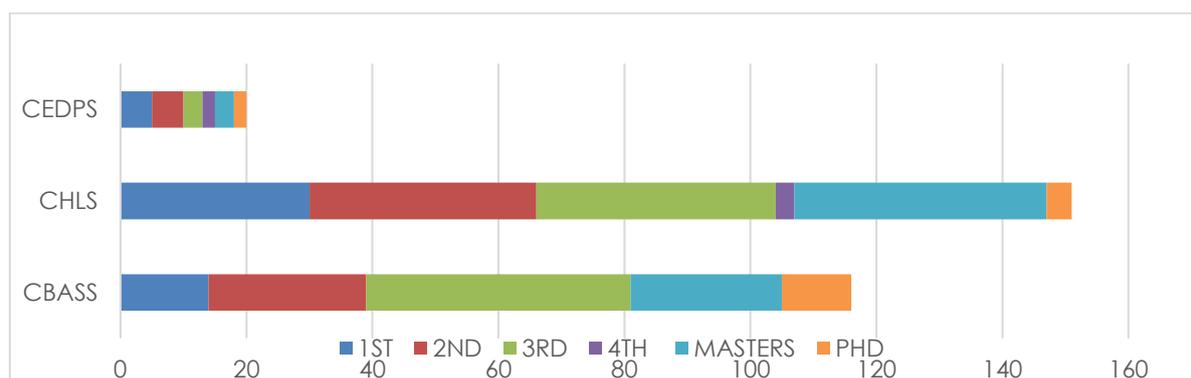
You will notice from the data that there are several nominations not included in the overarching figures, this is due to the Vice-Presidents of the Union also nominating staff members. Due to their status they are not considered in the data representing college and level.

2<sup>nd</sup> year and 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate students and postgraduates were the largest contributing groups to the awards. We have very few level 4 students, which is reflected in the numbers nominating. When it comes to PGR nominations this has historically been low, which links into to a wider issue with this demographic engaging in activities outside of their study. There has been a drop in 1<sup>st</sup> year students nominating, which will need to be addressed in the next round of awards.

1ST	49
2ND	66
3RD	83
4TH	5
PGT	67
PGR	17

Total number of nominations divided between the Colleges

CBASS	116
CHLS	151
CEDPS	20



## Winners 2018-19

Outstanding Feedback	Professor Niamh Mellerick
Exceptional Support Staff	Dr Stefania Pepitoni
Tutor/Supervisor of the Year College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences	Dr Monomita Nandy
Tutor/Supervisor of the Year College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences	Professor Rob Macredie
Tutor/Supervisor of the Year College of Health and Life Sciences	Dr Amanda Harvey
Lecturer of the Year College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences	Steve Cohen
Lecturer of the Year College of Engineering, Design and Physical Sciences	Dr Rui Cardoso
Lecturer of the Year College of Health and Life Sciences	Dr Michael Thomas
Sustainability Champion Award	Dr Peter Imris
Liberation, Equality and Diversity Champion Award	Dr Laura Hills

## Tutor/Supervisor of the Year Award

Definition: The Tutor/Supervisor of the Year Award will be awarded to a member of academic staff that has offered exceptional support to tutees and supervisees.

### Core Criteria

- Provides support to their tutees in terms of academic and non-academic advice, and has the desire to better the lives of their students.
- Provides opportunities for multiple forms of communication through telephone calls, emails and face to face meetings, and advertises their availability to students.
- Provides realistic solutions to any issues and constructive feedback where necessary.

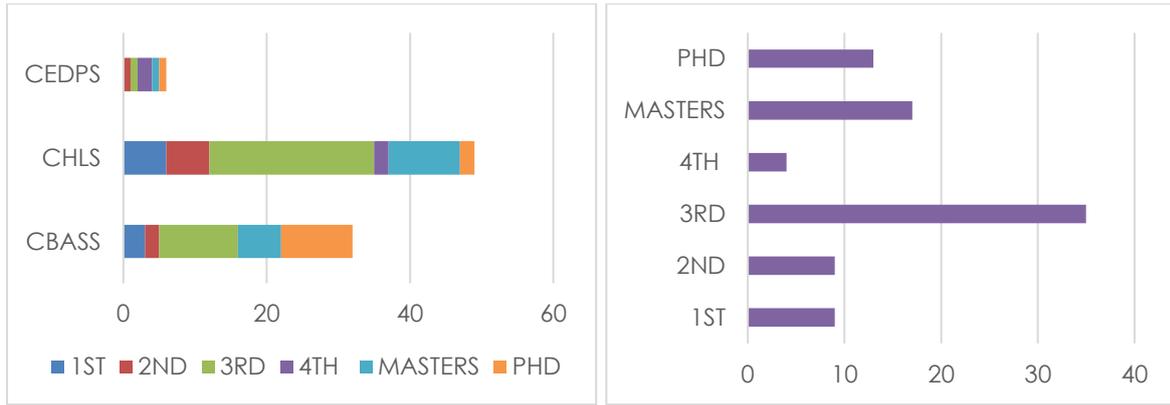
Eligibility: A member of academic staff

### Shortlisted nominees

CBASS	CEDPS	CHLS
Dr Manoj Dora Dr Monomita Nandy Professor Ben Chigara	Dr Evgeniya Nolde Dr Gera Troisi Professor Rob Macredie	Dr Amanda Harvey Dr Stanley O Gaines Dr Thomas Hoefken

### Winners

<b>CBASS</b> Dr Monomita Nandy	“Dr Monomita and I have our monthly (official) meetings, however, her door is always ajar should they be need for a quick catch up and or updates as and when necessary...she has challenged my critical thinking ability and constructively criticised my ideas, by doing so I am confident that whatever Idea I put out in my writing is well refined, she encourages free thinking, and the need to develop own arguments that are logical and could be backed with scholastic evidence(s).”
<b>CEDPS</b> Professor Rob Macredie	"He has demonstrated extreme compassion and dedication to students on countless occasions. Never turning down a request for help and always going the extra mile to ensure that the students get the support they deserve. I have no idea how he does it, but Rob always finds time to help any student in need. He has supported me at most desperate of times, providing the charismatic aid and suggesting ways to solve problems."
<b>CHLS</b> Dr Amanda Harvey	“Dr. Harvey has been a great tutor over the past 3 years. She was very welcoming during first year which made the transition to university slightly less daunting and meant that going to her for help and advice has been easy when this is something I usually struggle with. Any problems I have talked to her about have been resolved and any queries or worries I have in regards to coursework and exams are similarly allayed.”

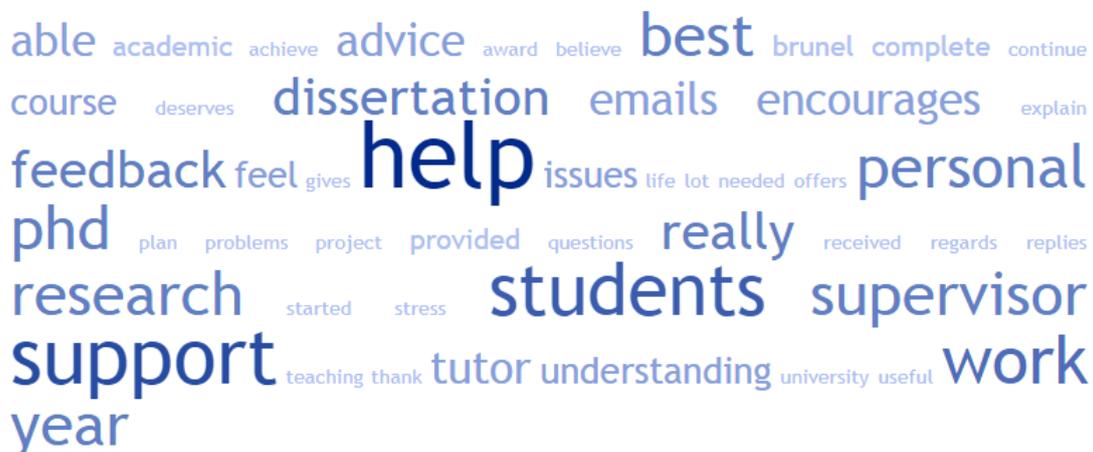


As is shown in the charts below and above, nominations of this award were predominantly put forward by 3<sup>rd</sup> year students. This is understandable given they are more likely to utilise Tutors along with Masters and PHD students. In previous years CBASS, being the largest College, had the largest volume of nominations, with CEDPS producing the lowest amount of nominations. However, this year most nominations for this award came from the smallest college CHLS.

In the nominations for this award there is a clear pattern of mentions of help, support and encouragement. Students wish to be able to access their tutors easily and feel welcomed.

Many of the nominated staff in this category have been described to have gone “above and beyond” the remit of their role, which students are very grateful for.

Taking the time to give detailed feedback, and also explain things in a simplified manner to ensure understanding, are other qualities that students value when nominating staff for this award.



## Lecturer of the Year Award

Definition: The Lecturer of the Year Award will be awarded to an inspirational member of academic staff, or a Postgraduate Student, who teaches in innovative and captivating ways; and engages with students in their learning beyond what is expected.

### Core Criteria

- A true passion for lecturing and engages the whole class in every lecture.
- Is knowledgeable in their area and provides structured seminars and tutorials that add to the learning experience.
- Actively challenges students in class and encourages critical thinking.
- Uses a diverse range of teaching methods that reflects the range of needs of the student body.
- Adopts engaging and innovative ways of teaching, such as technological enhancements or teaching based outside of the lecture room.

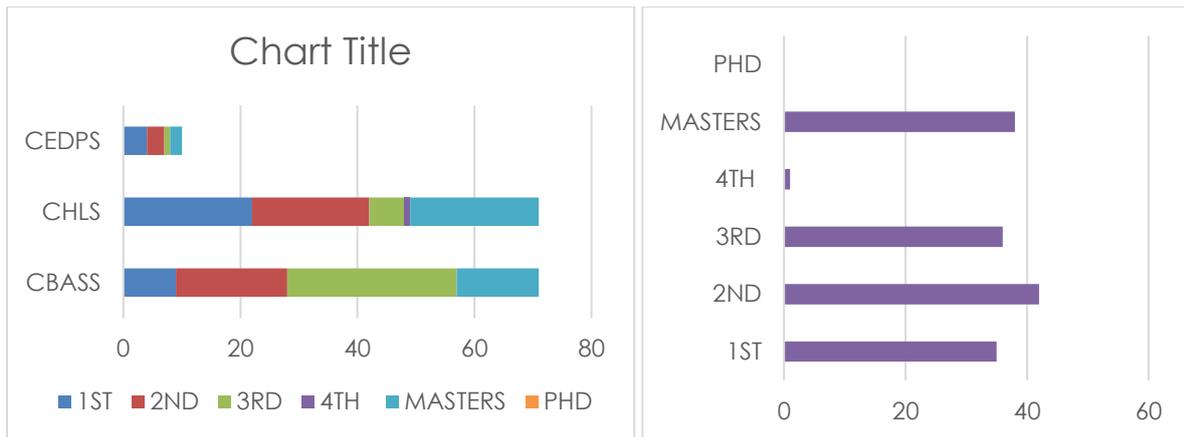
Eligibility: A member of Academic Staff or Postgraduate that teaches

### Shortlisted nominees

<b>CBASS</b> Steve Cohen Dr Kate Hoskins Dr Monica Degen	<b>CEDPS</b> Dr Rui Cardoso Dr Shashank Virmani Verity Parker	<b>CHLS</b> Dr Ronan McCarthy Dr Michael Thomas Dr Charlotte Kerner
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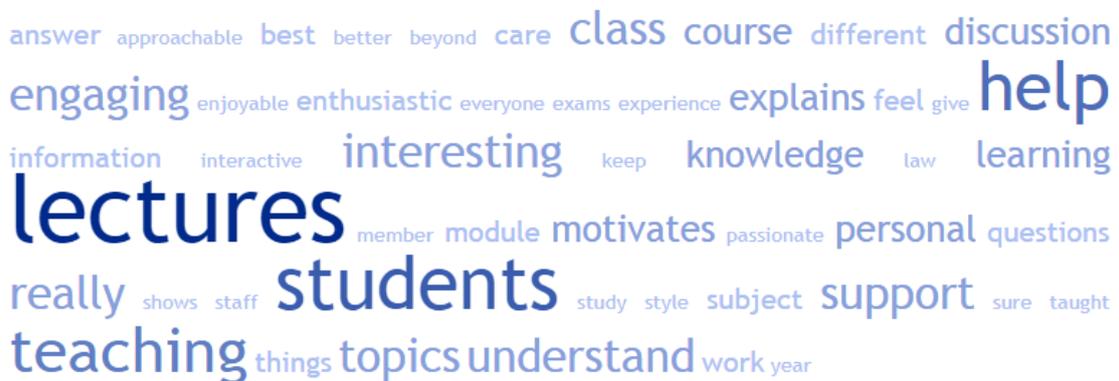
### Winners

<b>CBASS</b> Steve Cohen	“Steve's lectures are really helpful and clear, he makes them fun and interesting. He's always willing to help outside of lectures and will give you time to answer questions, organises revision sessions and is just a lovely member of staff who genuinely cares about his students.”
<b>CEDPS</b> Dr Rui Cardoso	“Very easy to follow lectures with lots of supports and examples available. Very kind and humorous both inside and outside of class. Seems to really care about his students and his job in education. The way he delivers his lectures is unique and adored by all students in his class.”
<b>CHLS</b> Dr Michael Thomas	Michael’s lectures are very interesting and enable us to critically analysis the chosen topics or challenge our own thoughts and judgements. His lecture slides are very informative and there is always reading that enables us to gauge what the lecture will cover and debates that may result from group discussions. Michael is very enthusiastic and conveys this through his different learning teaching styles; group work, games, flash cards and individual reflection has meant that I look forward to Michael’s lectures.”



As is shown in the charts above, nominations of this award were predominantly put forward by undergraduate students. There was however a good number of nominations submitted by PGT students. No PGR student submitted nominations, however this may be due to them not learning in the same taught environment as other students. There were a good number of nominations from both CBASS and CHLS, however as with the overall awards a poor number of nominations from CEDPS.

From the content of the nominations we can see that students value lectures that are interesting and easy to understand. They also value content being delivered in innovative and engaging ways.



## Outstanding Feedback

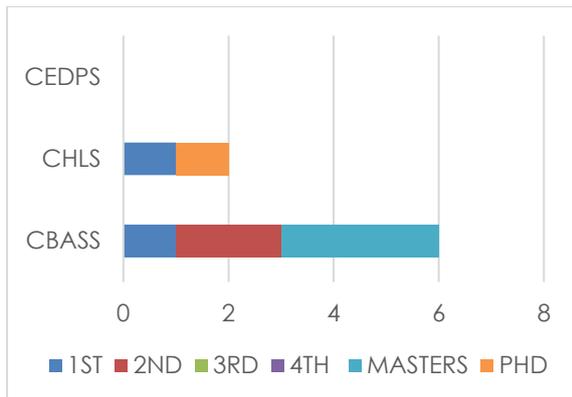
Definition: The Outstanding Feedback Award will be awarded to a member of Academic Staff, or a Postgraduate Student who teaches, that has offered exceptional feedback through innovative and constructive ways.

### Core Criteria

- Provides feedback in a timely fashion, with constructive comments and clearly described areas for improvement.
- Provides resources to allow students to complete the assignment to a suitable level, such as lectures, additional reading or laboratory time.
- Provides feedback in innovative ways, such as face to face, or through individualised emails
- Allows students to contact them regarding any feedback queries.

Eligibility: A member of Academic Staff or Postgraduate that teaches

Shortlisted nominees	Winner
Dr Senthila Quirke Dr Martin Hansen Niamh Mellerick	Niamh Mellerick "Niamh goes above and beyond to give constructive and helpful feedback. She will thoroughly talk through the issues she highlights and will go out of her way to make sure you understand how to improve."



Very few nominations were received in relation to feedback, this no nominations from CEDPS, 3<sup>rd</sup> year students and 4<sup>th</sup> year students. As shown above, the vast majority of the nominations come from CBASS, with the majority of nominations coming from PGT students.

Judging from the nominations, what makes outstanding feedback is for it to be delivered in a personal way and for extra resources to be made available to help students improve; such as handouts.

advice award cohort copy coursework deserves directives  
dissertation **feedback** grade help highlights  
improve interactive internet offered program resources result  
sessions support talk term thoroughly willing

## Exceptional Support Staff

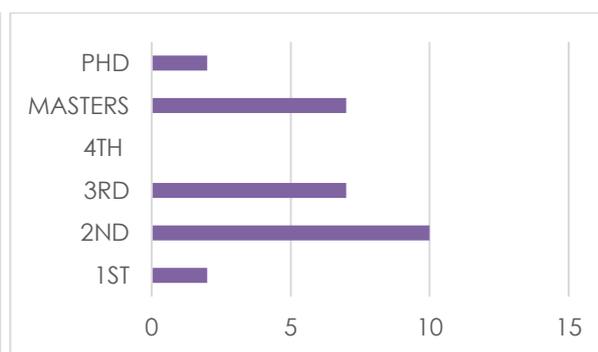
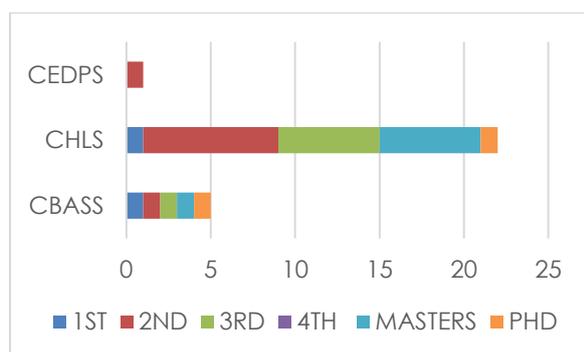
Definition: The Exceptional Support Staff Award is awarded to Non-Academic Staff that has supported a student in their studies or personal matters.

### Core Criteria

- Provided support with Academia, placements, or advanced learning
- Provided support with pastoral matters such as counselling or religion
- Has benefited the student in staying within the University.

Eligibility: Nominations are open for any NON-ACADEMIC staff

<p><u>Shortlisted nominees</u>          Georgia Allen &amp; Harriet Whitaker          Christel Thames          Martin Hodgson          Dr Stefania Pepitoni</p>	<p><u>Winner</u>          Dr Stefania Pepitoni          “Because of her dedication to help everyone and anyone applying for placements, whether it was checking CVs, cover letter or helping prepare for interviews. Her unlimited support helped me gain a very good placement and she never said no for help whenever I needed and she gave me good advice in regards to score a good placement.”</p>
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CHLS submitted the most nominations for this award. There was a mix of nominations with most being submitted by students in their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year of study, or PGT.

Valued aspects of the nominees for the Exceptional Support Staff Award included listening to students and going out of their way to provide the support needed. This year, compared to previous years, saw quite a few people being nominated due to the support they gave students in relation to placements.

able advice beyond degree deserves dissertation feel hard help information  
 interview lectures letter needed opportunities placement questions  
 students support sure truly understanding willing work  
 year

# Sustainability Champion Award

Definition: Sustainability is the creation and maintenance of environmental, economic, social and cultural conditions that allow human and natural life to flourish and continue, without stalling the ability of future generations to flourish also. The Sustainability Champion Award will be awarded to a member of University staff who has gone above and beyond to equip students with the knowledge, skills and attributes required to be sustainability leaders.

## Core Criteria

- Promotes sustainable living and commitment to our environment.
- Encourages students to share ideas relating to sustainability with other students or people in the wider community.
- Supports student groups to organise around sustainability and engages with their activities.
- Inspires and prepares their students with the necessary knowledge and tools to go on to develop sustainable practice.

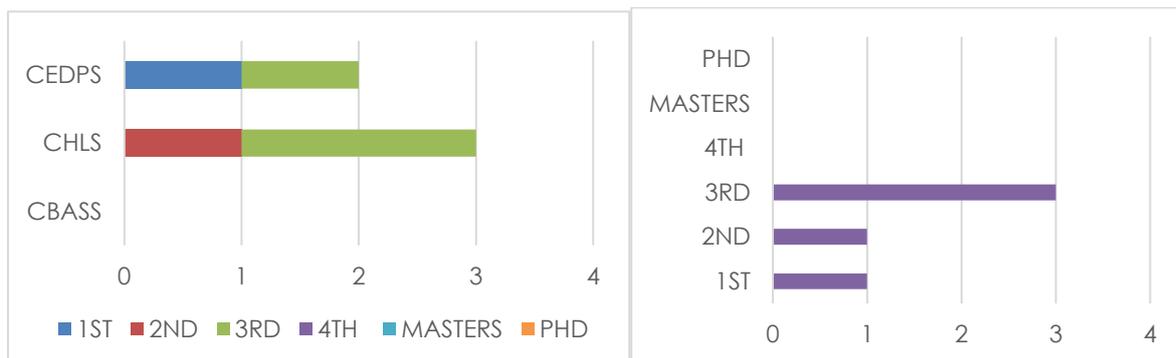
Eligibility: A member of University Staff

As this award is for such a niche criterion, we did not envision receiving large numbers of nominations. As such we made the decision to not shortlist this award, but instead choose the winner outright.

## Winner

Dr Peter Imris

“Outside of his university employment, Peter has been incredibly involved in the beekeeping business which has started at Brunel through the Student Union. This has been fundamental in the Union securing support from the University for the beekeeping enterprise but, also has helped us branch out to students regarding the importance of biodiversity and bees. Peter is constantly encouraging and thinking of ways to engage students with beekeeping and he's been a delight to work with.”



Once more CHLS submitted the most nominations for this award, although we also had a few from CEDPS. All nominations received were from students on UG programmes.

The main nominees for this award that stood out did so due to their work to educate others about the environment. In the winner's case it was the work they have done to support a student enterprise involving bees.



A word cloud graphic featuring several terms in blue text of varying sizes. The largest words are 'beekeeping', 'students', 'environment', 'research', 'university', 'human', 'lecture', and 'really'. Smaller words include 'explains', 'health', 'securing', 'ways', 'bees', 'sustainable', and 'union'. The words are arranged in a cluster, with 'beekeeping' and 'students' being the most prominent.

## Liberation, Equality and Diversity Champion Award

Definition: The Liberation Equality and Diversity Champion Award will be awarded to a member of University Staff who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to the support and empowerment of BME, LGBT+, Disabled students and other under-represented groups on campus.

### Core Criteria

- Provides tailored support for academic or pastoral matters consistent with individual needs, increasing a sense of encouragement and belonging among under-represented students.
- Promotes inclusion, challenges inequality and cultivates an empowering environment for all through their role.
- Engages with projects, events and initiatives that seek to advance marginalised groups in their own time.

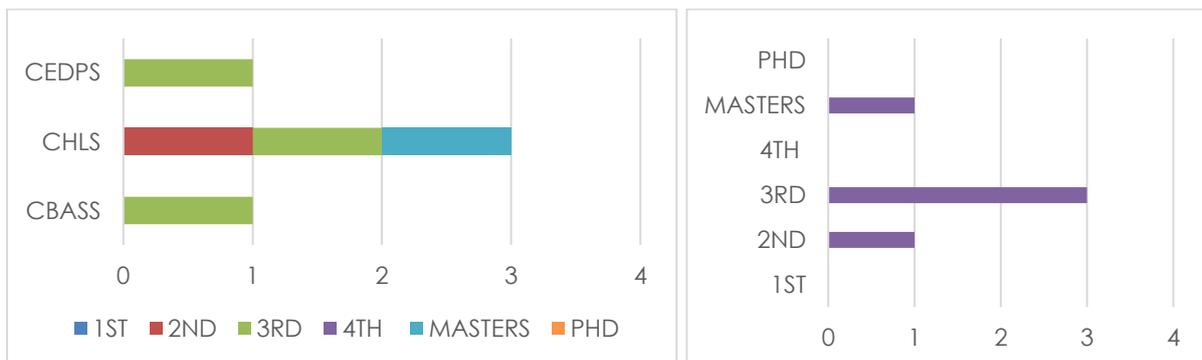
Eligibility: A member of University Staff

As this award is for such a niche criterion, we did not envision receiving large numbers of nominations. As such we made the decision to not shortlist this award, but instead choose the winner outright.

### Winner

Dr. Laura Hills

"She is a very passionate lecture, who is working with student activities, on how to get date from low sport participation groups, including female, BME, and disabled students. Also, during the LGBT history month, when Finn released the LGBT flag stickers, she distributed some flags to both CHLS departments (Life Sciences and Clinical Sciences), and hopefully academics that support LGBT students will now have the flags in their office doors."



There were only 6 nominations for this new award, most of which came from CHLS. All the nominations received also came from diverse students nominating different staff members. The nominations received for this award were for activities such as promoting inclusion of LGBT+ students, advocacy for students with mental health difficulties, and supporting women in STEM.

academic brunel challenges disabled experience  
flags helped interesting lgbt life needs personal practical professional  
required research sport **students** support understanding

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