

# shwmae. hello.



## Student Choice Awards Gwobrau Dewis Y Myfyrwyr 2026

### Programme

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Dydd Iau 21<sup>st</sup> Mai 2026



Undeb Myfyrwyr  
Prifysgol De Cymru  
University of South Wales  
Students' Union

# Croeso

Welcome to the annual USWSU Student Choice Awards! We're super excited to open the doors and welcome you into the Students' Union, to celebrate the outstanding work of the USW community. This year, we're especially excited to welcome you all back to our Treforest Campus venue, after it's closure the doors are finally back open and we're kicking things off with our favourite event on our calendar, the Student Choice Awards!

This year, we received over 1,100 nominations which shows how incredible our students and USW staff are. It truly is an honour for us to be able to hold the SCAs each year, and we love seeing everyone recognised for their commitment to making the USW experience, the best it can be.

From all of us at the Students' Union, we hope that you enjoy the evening and we'd love to see your pictures! You can tag us across social media with @uswsu and use the hashtag #SCAS2026



# Collecting Awards

Each category will be announced by the presenters and the shortlisted nominees will be displayed on the screen.

The winner's name will then be highlighted on the screens and their chosen music shall be played, they will be asked to join on stage and present a speech for collecting the award. (Please enter the stage on the right hand side up the stairs)

For the Best Lecturer, Best Course Leader and Best Supervisor categories we ask that all shortlisters please remain on the stage so we can present the Winner of Winners Award per award.

Once you have collected your award and completed your speech, please head out to the foyer so we can take photographs of you with your award.

**Please note:** If you wish to have photos taken with your loved ones our comms team will be available to do this after the ceremony has finished.



# Order of Events

**Performance by the Bangladesh Society**

**Welcome message from the CEO**

**Award for Best Lecturer**

**Award for Best Supervisor**

**Student Representative of the Year**

**Sportsperson of the Year**

**Outstanding Student Support**

**Students' Union Staff Member of the Year**

**Staff Award for Student Partnership**

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Impact**

**Student-Led Group of the Year**

**Best Course Leader**

**Most Impactful Team**

**Most Inspirational Student**

**Excellence Awards**



# Best Lecturer

(Per Faculty)

## Business and Creative Industries

Hannah Coburn  
Lewis Bishop  
Omoboyede (John) Alalabiaye

## Computing, Engineering and Science

Beth Nurse  
David Dawkins  
Stephanie Perkins

## Life Sciences and Education

Carl Davies  
Clare Churcher  
Martin Evans





# Hannah Coburn

## Business and Creative Industries

Went above and beyond to help me with my dissertation a great and fun teacher and overall a great person. She is the best lecturer and she gave her level best to make us reach to this point.

I am nominating Hannah for Best Lecturer because her impact on my academic journey has been genuinely transformative. She played a pivotal role in enabling me to begin my LLB Law degree rather than the foundation course, advocating for me when it mattered most and ensuring I was given the opportunity to succeed.

Throughout my first year, Hannah has provided consistent support, not only academically but personally, equipping me with practical methods to organise myself and manage my studies in ways I had previously struggled to achieve. Her guidance has had a lasting impact on both my confidence and performance.

Hannah goes above and beyond for her students. She ensures that we are always where we need to be, both in terms of understanding and access to support, and she does this with genuine care and commitment. It is clear that her dedication extends to every student, not just myself.

Her teaching style is exceptional—engaging, clear, and thought-provoking. She creates an environment where learning feels accessible and enjoyable, and she actively encourages discussion, making even complex topics feel manageable and interesting.

I have never encountered a lecturer quite like Hannah. Being taught by her has been a privilege, and her influence has shaped not only my academic experience but my belief in my own ability to succeed in law. Hannah Coburn goes above and beyond to support all students in the law course. She makes her lectures highly engaging and personable. She is highly passionate about the course and delivers excellent lectures.

Hannah is a free-spirited, inspirational, and supportive lecturer. I've genuinely enjoyed all her classes, and I admire how passionate she is about student growth and development. Her smile just makes the learning environment even better. She teaches really well and ensures her students follow up and understand the subject with ease.



This nomination continues  
on the next page

# Lewis Bishop

## Business and Creative Industries

Lewis is one of the best lecturers in the entire Law Department because of his modern approach to teaching. His methods are engaging, student-centred, and focused on creating an interactive learning environment. He genuinely listens to students and their concerns, always prioritising their wellbeing. His support and teaching style have had a very positive impact on my academic journey.

This person had made such a good impact on me for my commercial law module, for a complicated area he clearly explains and supports me for my questions. The way lectures are laid out with on hands workshops showing how scenarios would work in the real world are extremely helpful and I have kept all of the sheets in which we have gone through. Furthermore, I massively struggled with my one module Law and Technolgoy with my previous lecturer which resulted in a low mark on my first assignment. Once Lewis took over the module things started to make sense and I started to understand the module which resulted in me receiving a really good mark for my second assignment and I felt happier and more confident with my piece of work. Lewis is also willing to give help and if something isn't understood he will try and find a way for u to understand it. I know that there is a lot of people in both of my modules that feel the same about Lewis. Lewis has been so helpful for me this year I wanted to make sure I chose a module which he was going to be teaching as I know I will get the most support and potentially get the final year grades I was hoping for. For making the most boring subject, fun and rememberable. For also giving clear guidance on assignments and exams ensuring we have all the tools required to under take the world. By far the most organised and helpful lecturer we have had so far.



# Lewis Bishop

## Business and Creative Industries

Firstly, I want to express how much I've enjoyed attending Lewis's lectures this term. For a topic I had expected to be tedious at the time, the experience has been the complete opposite. I have genuinely looked forward to making the journey to his lectures each week and can already feel a difference in how I approach a task in my professional workplace.

I am not alone in my opinion that Lewis's teaching style is clear, well structured and genuinely engaging. He delivers material in a way that is informative and inclusive without putting students on the spot or making anyone feel uncomfortable. I particularly value the way he ends each session by revisiting key points to reinforce learning, this has really helped to retain taught information.

What has stood out most is how quickly I've been able to apply the topics covered in his lectures to my day to day work. It has already improved my interactions with contractors, especially around setting clear terms early on to avoid confusion on projects.

Lewis Bishop is an amazing lecturer within the USW Family.

He has been dedicated to his topics and extremely helpful in undertaking Built Environment Law.

From the method of teaching provided which allows all the students to improve and apply the topics to going out of his way to review your assessment documents before submission onto turn it in. In which he provides you with as many points to improve as you feedback



# Omoboyede (John) Alalabiaye

## Business and Creative Industries

I am Nominating him as the Best Lecturer, because he takes his time to explain thoroughly and ensure that everyone is carried along.

Has great Grip on the Subject, well Engaged with students helping cooperative teacher for the biggners even.

I am nominating this lecturer because they consistently demonstrate exceptional clarity in their teaching, making complex topics easy to understand. They are highly engaging, encourage participation, and are always willing to provide extra support to ensure students succeed. Their passion for the subject and dedication to student learning truly set them apart.

Omoboyede Alalabiaye is an excellent lecturer who explains complex topics clearly and makes lectures engaging. He is always supportive, approachable, and willing to help students succeed. His passion for teaching and dedication to students make him highly deserving of this award

He is approachable, encouraging, and genuinely invested in his students' academic and personal growth, which makes him stand out as an exceptional lecturer.

I nominated Dr John because he was incredibly knowledgeable, understanding, and supportive. He always made people feel comfortable with his friendly and funny personality, while also providing excellent guidance and advice. His ability to combine professionalism with kindness made a real positive impact on those around him.

So helpful to students even without duty hours still he pay attention to student work

Real-World Relevance he bridges the gap between theory and practice by regularly connecting academic content to recent industry developments and practical, often amusing, anecdotes.

Approachability and Mentorship he demonstrate a high level of compassion and accessibility, creating a safe space for students to ask questions and discuss challenges. They are known for providing constructive, speedy feedback, helping students understand complex concepts easily.



# Beth Nurse

## Computing, Engineering and Science

Beth has made all three years of my studies extremely enjoyable. I look forward to every lecture or practical she teaches, and she always brings fun and laughter as well as brilliant teaching to every session. She is always there to help when it's needed and stands out compared to any other tutor I have had. Through the stresses, Beth has added amusement and it has been great having the opportunity to have her as a tutor every year of my degree.

Beth has been one of my favourite lecturers since the very first lecture with her in 2023. She has been the most supportive, helping, and amazing lecturer throughout the course and makes her lectures and workshops informative but relatable. I wish I could nominate Beth more than once because she is the best lecturer anyone could ever ask for.

Always happy to help since first year. Keeps it real with us  
Brings so much to the team, to the students and staff. Keeps us learning in the practicals but makes them fun.

We've had Beth since Y1, and she has never faltered to make not only her module but all of our course as enjoyable and interesting as possible. Her efforts motivate me to want to do well- not only because of her influence, but also to thank her and become half as impressive as she has been in her career/life.

She's genuinely so supportive and gives loads of material and support with all aspects of her subject. She is so friendly and approachable and fair. All you can ask for and more in a lecturer

Always there, amazing lectures! Always motivating and encouraging. Never get bored in lectures

Always being supportive

Every lecture is always exciting and fun, I feel like I've learned so much from Beth and hearing about her experiences as a CSI. She's always so passionate about what she's doing and really does the most for us students, having her as a lecture since first year has really been an honour and made the uni experience so much more enjoyable.



# David Dawkins

Computing, Engineering and Science

With his extensive background as an experienced Manufacturing Engineer, David brings an invaluable level of industry expertise and practical knowledge to the University of South Wales.

David's demonstrated history in the medical device industry and his strong proficiency in Computer Aided Design (CAD), Teamcenter, Continuous Improvement, and New Product Implementations make him an exceptional resource for students. As an alumnus with a BSc (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering from USW, he perfectly bridges the gap between academic theory and real world application. He consistently provides outstanding advice about navigating the engineering industry and developing products from the ground up. What truly makes David stand out is his direct support and willingness to help students succeed. He was incredibly helpful during our build project, generously sharing his wealth of experience to guide us. No matter what technical issue we face, David always seems to have a practical solution ready. His specialized expertise with 3D printers has been particularly beneficial, allowing us to troubleshoot effectively and bring our complex designs to life.

David's practical guidance, deep industry knowledge, and exceptional problem solving skills have vastly improved our project outcomes and our overall understanding of manufacturing engineering. I highly recommend him for this well deserved recognition.



# Stephanie Perkins

## Computing, Engineering and Science

From Day 1, this lecturer has gone out of their way to help and support me, and has always had an open-door policy for all their students to access help and support. Now, 4 years later, where I'm about to complete my master's, they still regularly check up on me and is always up for a chat about my life and course no matter what. In my 3rd year, I severely struggled with mental health issues, which affected my performance in both coursework and exams throughout the year, meaning the grade I was achieving didn't reflect my true knowledge and potential. This lecturer immediately noticed the dip in my performance compared to previous years and arranged a meeting with me to discuss what was going on. Subsequently, we agreed that submitting extenuating circumstances for my final exams would be the best course of action allowing time to catch up on my studies. This meant I was able to spend time in counselling and attend one-to-one catchup sessions that this lecturer had arranged over the summer term both in-person and online, finally allowing me to sit my exams in August and achieve a 2:1 overall, securing my place on my dream master's course.

Although I'm no longer taught by them, they still regularly check in on me, and I look forward to our monthly catchups where they still provide me with any support I should need. I feel that all the work and care provided by this lecturer is worthy of this award because they have gone out of their way to help so many students without expecting any recognition. They have always gone beyond simply lecturing staff and, to me, that is exactly what this award is about!



# Carl Davies

## Life Sciences and Education

I want to nominate Carl Davies for Best Lecturer in recognition of the outstanding contribution he has made to my learning experience this year. Carl has been consistently engaging, supportive, and highly effective in his teaching. His lectures are not only interesting but also grounded in real-world applications, which have made a significant difference in how I understand and engage with the subject. He has a clear ability to bring theory to life, using practical examples and scenarios that reflect the realities of applied criminal investigation. This has made the module feel relevant, immersive, and genuinely valuable for future practice.

The module has been delivered exceptionally well, with clear structure, organisation, and purpose throughout. Carl ensures that students feel supported, taking the time to explain complex concepts in an accessible way and always being approachable when help is needed. His enthusiasm for the subject is evident and has had a positive impact on student motivation and engagement.

Overall, Carl is an excellent lecturer who goes above and beyond to create a meaningful and supportive learning environment. His passion, professionalism, and commitment to student success make him highly deserving of this recognition

Delivered the subject very well with his background and previous work experience, this was conveyed. Considerate, respectful and thorough always. Also, returned assignments back as soon as all were marked and did not wait for the brief deadline which was greatly appreciated, although I know this is not always achievable but is a great bonus when your not waiting the full 20 working days. All round a great lecturer and I really enjoyed this course.

This lecturer honestly is the kindest person I've ever had the pleasure of being taught by. His dedication to not only his subject but to his students passing is amazing. The support that he has given me personally when I was struggling was the best thing I could've ever asked for. Offering to tutor me if I felt that overwhelmed and helping contact the right people when I had a bereavement was something I will treasure.



# Clare Churcher

## Life Sciences and Education

Puts every single student at ease and is happy to ask every question no matter how small or big. Emphasis with students and happy to have a chat about anything

Clare has been so supportive of students. In lectures, her content could be seen as depressing with topics such as cancer, palliative care, and dying. Clare always does this with sensitivity and humour. She always has time for all the students and makes sure we know it.

I nominate: Clare Churcher

I would like to nominate Clare for her ongoing support and care for her students. She has consistently checked in on how I am managing my workload and has always responded quickly to my emails. Clare is always available to help, and I am very grateful for the time she has dedicated to assisting me and others. Her commitment to her students is truly appreciated. Her lectures are not only interesting but also accompanied by valuable skills and online resources she has provided. I hope to become a fantastic nurse like her. Additionally, she has shared her insights and experiences regarding the challenges she faced as a nurse, which is helpful for all the students. Clare is very approachable for advice, making her a great resource for us.

Claire has been nothing but supportive during my 3 years at USW. She has consistently gone above and beyond, not only as an educator but as a role model and source of support. Clare is truly outstanding in her ability to teach even the most complex and emotionally challenging subjects with both expertise and genuine compassion. In particular, when teaching topics such as cancer care, Clare approached every session with sensitivity, humanity, and deep clinical knowledge. She created a learning environment where difficult conversations felt safe, meaningful, and inspiring, helping us not only understand the science behind the subject but also the importance of seeing the person behind the diagnosis. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award.



This nomination continues  
on the next page

# Martin Evans

## Life Sciences and Education

Always makes lectures fun and upbeat even when we are discussing sad topics, really easy to listen to and understand the subject. Really inspires his students, thank you so much.

Martin makes the lectures fun and engaging. He has a really good personality and that makes learning from him really beneficial.

Lecturer provide good understanding classes

Amazing lectures and great at student interaction

Whenever we have Martin down to give us a lecture, fellow students and I light up! He brings so much enthusiasm to the lecture, he has a magical way with teaching and could make the most boring topic, extremely engaging and fun. He always welcomes questions and never makes you feel stupid for asking them or feel silly for giving the incorrect/less appropriate answers. Martin is extremely passionate about the topics he teaches and for his course in general, this shines throughout. He's very approachable, no problem seems too big or too wild, and he'll offer his support in whatever way he can. Martin doesn't just read off of the PowerPoints, he engages with the class, asks questions to get us thinking and elaborates deeper on the presentations he gives. He also has a great ability to make really complex and challenging topics, much easier to understand and with the sensitivity that the topics deserve. We're incredibly lucky to have Martin as one of our awesome lecturers.

Martin goes above and beyond to help. He makes lectures interesting, keeps us engaged and has a great way of teaching.



# Martin Evans

## Life Sciences and Education

Martin Evans is the best lecturer as he provides real life examples to link theory to practice when teaching and as a result, has helped me further understand the topic and be confidently prepared writing the assignment. He encourages students to ask questions which has helped my fear and has been beneficial in my learning throughout.

I would like to nominate Martin for the Best Lecturer Award because he consistently goes above and beyond to create an engaging, supportive, and genuinely enjoyable learning environment. His vibrant personality and brilliant sense of humour make every lecture feel welcoming and energising, even on the most challenging days.

What truly sets Martin apart is the way he teaches. He never simply reads from the slides; instead, he brings the content to life by going into depth, breaking down complex ideas, and making sure every student understands the material. His interactive approach encourages us to get involved, ask questions, and think critically, which has made a huge difference to my confidence and learning.

Martin has a natural ability to connect with students and make learning feel accessible. His passion for teaching is obvious, and his commitment to our understanding is unwavering. He creates a space where no question feels too small, and he always takes the time to ensure we leave each session feeling informed and supported.

For these reasons, and for the positive impact he has on our academic experience, I believe Martin truly deserves recognition as an outstanding lecturer.

# Best Supervisor

(Per Faculty)

## Business and Creative Industries

Jia Cao  
Manisha Kumar  
Omoboyede (John) Alalabiaye

## Computing, Engineering and Science

Josie Bradley  
Karen Le Freuve

## Life Sciences and Education

Beth Dando  
Carl Davies  
Claire Pescott  
Rachel Ford





**Jia Cao**

Business and Creative Industries

I am nominating Jia for the Best Course Leader award because of her constant and unwavering support and encouragement throughout my time in the USW.

I remember in our first conversation with her, she said one powerful sentence many times: 'You will be fine'. Having someone (especially the course leader) saying this makes a huge impact. I was new to the UK, but she was always reassuring, which made me stay calm and confident. It motivated me to believe in myself and continue hard working.

Jia has been supportive and approachable throughout my degree period. Whenever I had questions regarding assignment or getting help from different USW departments, she always responded promptly and making sure that I have got the right help.

I really appreciated one of her workshops called simulated trading which she conducted for Portfolio module. It was my first time experiencing this area and I was not confident to gain any good markings. However, she encouraged me to take risks in those games and see what difference it will make. She always reassured me which helped me to build my confidence. Because of her guidance and encouragement, I performed very well and achieved strong marks in her modules.

I am still in contact with Jia and nag her with questions all the time. She is always supportive and is always just an email away. Her care, patience, and encouragement have made a huge difference to my academic journey in the USW.



# Manisha Kumar

## Business and Creative Industries

I am nominating Manisha Kumar for the Best Supervisor award because of her exceptional guidance, dedication, and continuous support throughout our academic work. She consistently went above and beyond to help students understand their assignments and feel confident in their work.

What particularly stood out to me was the support she provided before and during our presentations. She guided us patiently, helped us improve our ideas and delivery, and made sure we felt prepared and confident. In addition, she organised a dedicated session specifically for report writing, which was extremely helpful in improving our understanding of how to structure and present our work effectively.

Even after classes, she always took the time to answer students' questions regarding assessments and coursework. Her approachable nature and willingness to provide extra guidance made a huge difference to many students, including myself. She genuinely cares about student progress and always encourages us to do our best.

Her professionalism, patience, and commitment to helping students succeed make her truly deserving of the Best Supervisor recognition.



# Omoboyede (John) Alalabiaye

## Business and Creative Industries

I am Nominating him as the Best Lecturer, because he takes his time to explain thoroughly and ensure that everyone is carried along. I nominated Dr John because he was incredibly knowledgeable, understanding, and supportive. He always made people feel comfortable with his friendly and funny personality, while also providing excellent guidance and advice. His ability to combine professionalism with kindness made a real positive impact on those around him. He consistently stands up for students

I am nominating this supervisor because they provide excellent guidance, are highly supportive, and always make time to help. Their constructive feedback and encouragement have made a significant positive impact on my progress and confidence.

I am nominating Dr Omoboyede Alalabiaye for Best Course Leader because of his exceptional teaching ability and supportive nature. He is a very friendly and approachable person, which makes it easy for students to engage with him and ask questions without hesitation. Dr Alalabiaye is highly intelligent and demonstrates a strong depth of knowledge in his subject. What makes him stand out is his ability to communicate complex ideas clearly, ensuring that all students understand the material. His teaching skills have had a significant positive impact on my learning experience.

He also pays close attention to his students and is always willing to offer help and guidance whenever needed. Whether during lectures or outside of class, he is consistently supportive and committed to helping students succeed.

Overall, his friendliness, intelligence, and dedication to student learning make him an outstanding course leader who truly deserves this recognition.



# Josie Bradley

## Computing, Engineering and Science

The nicest person, very understanding and educating with the practical's, if there's something done wrong josie is always happy to help and show the appropriate methods by demonstrating. easy to understand and revise the work that been handed.

She has helped us a lot during some unpredictable times and always provides us with the best support

Josie has been incredibly supportive during my diss, she has been amazing at helping to quiet my self critical thoughts and reminding me to not make things so difficult for myself! Josie has also handled the stress of our clinical skills module and placement amazingly, Josie has thanked us for our good grace many times but she needn't, she has been up against it this term but none of the stress has ever transferred over to us (at least that's the case from my point of view!) Thank you so much Josie!

I genuinely don't know where id be without Josie, she has always been the lecturer I go to about anything, and to have her as my supervisor was the best thing ever. She has consistently given her all for her students, myself included. Shes so knowledgable and passionate about the subject she teaches and was always on hand to answer my stupid questions. And when it got tough and I felt like giving up on my dissertation after what felt like dead end after dead end, josie was there to pick me up - Thank you for all that you do Josie your a star!

She's always available and keen to help and a pleasure to be around



# Karen Le Freuve

Computing, Engineering and Science

Karen has been an exceptional supervisor whose guidance, support, and encouragement played a crucial role in helping me excel in my dissertation. Her knowledge, patience, and dedication consistently pushed me to achieve a higher academic standard while maintaining confidence in my abilities.

She took the time to understand my research aims and provided detailed, constructive feedback that significantly strengthened my work at every stage. Karen was always approachable and supportive, making even the most challenging aspects of the dissertation feel manageable. Her belief in my potential motivated me to strive for excellence.

What truly sets Karen apart is her genuine commitment to her students' success. She goes above and beyond to guide, support, and inspire, ensuring her students achieve the very best outcomes. I am incredibly grateful for her supervision and strongly believe she deserves recognition as an outstanding and inspiring supervisor.



# Beth Dando

Life Sciences and Education

Beth consistently demonstrates outstanding commitment and dedication in her role as an assignment supervisor. She provides students with a supportive, approachable, and encouraging learning environment, helping them to build confidence and develop their academic skills throughout the assignment process. Her guidance is constructive, motivating, and tailored to individual student needs, ensuring students feel supported while also being challenged to achieve their full potential.

One of Beth's greatest strengths is her ability to explain complex academic concepts in a clear and accessible way. She encourages critical thinking, reflection, and deeper engagement with learning, helping students to strengthen both their academic writing and understanding of professional practice. Her feedback is always thoughtful, detailed, and developmental, enabling students to recognise their strengths while identifying areas for improvement in a positive and constructive manner.



# Carl Davies

## Life Sciences and Education

Carl is the kind of supervisor who leads not through authority alone, but through consistency, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to his team. Over the years, he has demonstrated what true leadership looks like by creating an environment where people feel valued, supported, and motivated to do their very best. It is for these reasons, and many more, that I wholeheartedly nominate Carl for Best Supervisor.

One of Carl's greatest strengths is his ability to remain calm and approachable, even during the most challenging situations. In high-pressure moments where stress levels can easily rise, Carl consistently brings reassurance and clarity. I remember one particularly demanding period when staffing shortages and tight deadlines placed enormous pressure on the entire team. Rather than simply delegating tasks from a distance, Carl rolled up his sleeves and worked alongside us, helping wherever he was needed. He stayed late multiple evenings, ensuring no one felt overwhelmed or unsupported. His attitude kept morale high and reminded everyone that we were working together, not alone.

Carl also has a remarkable ability to recognize potential in others and encourage professional growth. There was a time when I lacked confidence in taking on additional responsibilities, doubting whether I was capable of handling more complex tasks. Carl noticed this immediately and took the time to mentor me personally. Instead of criticizing mistakes, he treated them as opportunities to learn. He regularly checked in, offered constructive feedback, and celebrated even small improvements. Thanks to his encouragement, I developed both confidence and skills that have had a lasting impact on my career. This is something Carl does naturally for everyone around him, he genuinely wants people to succeed.



# Claire Pescott

## Life Sciences and Education

She is so hardworking and passionate about her love for teaching and research. She is always available when you need her and she instills drive to work hard and do more in all those around her. She motivated me to aim high even beyond my undergraduate degree. She inspires me.

Really supportive and gave great guidance

This is the first year we have had Claire as a lecturer, and both my experience and that of many other students has been extremely positive. She engaged me from the very first session of the research project, creating a supportive and motivating learning environment. The sessions were organised to a remarkable level of detail, unlike anything I have previously experienced during my studies at USW. I particularly appreciated being challenged to think more deeply about my research, while still feeling supported throughout the process. Claire was always prompt in responding to work I submitted for review, and her feedback was genuinely constructive and focused on development. Her passion as a practitioner was also clear; when she shared her past experiences, it brought an authentic and meaningful perspective that enhanced the learning experience.



# Rachel Ford

## Life Sciences and Education

She always listens to our concerns and will act on them without being asked. She is very clear with instructions.

We have been incredibly fortunate to experience Rachel's unique and individual lecturing style throughout our first and second years on the course. Her lectures are calming, inspiring, informative, and almost ethereal in the way they engage and encourage students. In particular, her carousel classroom sessions have been among the most memorable and impactful experiences of our degree.

Whether teaching drama, music, or art, Rachel's sessions have always been innovative, thought-provoking, and appropriately challenging, while also building our confidence enormously in teaching the Expressive Arts. She has a remarkable ability to create learning experiences that are both creative and purposeful, encouraging us to think differently about our practice and embrace creativity within the classroom.

Although we were sadly unable to have Rachel teaching us directly in our final year, the work she has undertaken behind the scenes to refine and develop our Professional Learning Passport during placement has been nothing short of transformational. She has made reflective practice feel genuinely meaningful and purposeful, actively listened to student feedback, and helped create a platform where we can thoughtfully document our experiences, track our development, and build our professional identities as future teachers.

Beyond her formal teaching responsibilities, Rachel has also been a constant source of encouragement and support on a more personal level. Whether it has been a quick pre-assignment pep talk, advice before a job interview, or simply a conversation about life as a teacher, she has always welcomed us with warmth, compassion, and an incredible ability to listen.

Her guidance has been invaluable to so many of us, and the care she shows towards her students is something we will carry with us long beyond university.

# Student Representative of the Year

Leah Jones

Rizwaan Ahmed Said Ghodiwala

Sasha Gowers





# Leah Jones

## Student Representative of the Year

Leah has been the MSc Psychology Part-time Course Representative for 2 years...having been asked specifically by that cohort to stay on for another year due to her contributions and support! She actively supports her peers and has created a strong student community within the part-time group.

This is not just in terms of course representation – Leah also provides positive peer support and signposting to USW support for students in her group who disclose wider difficulties. At SSCLGs and in interim feedback, Leah presents questions and issues in a thoughtful and constructive way, is keen to discuss instances of good practice that can be enhanced further and discusses potential solutions or course developments with clarity, professionalism and engagement. She also represented the views of her peers both in the part-time cohort and in the wider course as part of the student panel for our recent accreditation visit to ensure that their views and voices were heard. As course leader, I feel that Leah embodies the principle of staff-student partnership working and supports the creation of a strong cohort identity. This feat is especially impressive given that the MSc operates 100% online and there is a significant geographical distance between herself and some of her peers.

Leah has been so supportive as our course representative. Attentive in her support and informative in her feedback.



This nomination continues  
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# Rizwaan Ahmed Said Ghodiwala

## Student Representative of the Year

I am nominating Rizwaan because he has been an exceptionally supportive Course Rep. He is very approachable and easy to talk to, always making time even if it's for the smallest of questions. He took the initiative to guide me around the University when I needed it and is always willing to help out. On top of this personal support, he does an excellent job representing our MSc Aeronautical Engineering cohort. He actively collaborates with academic staff to resolve course-level challenges and ensure our learning environment is constantly improving. He truly goes above and beyond expectations.

I recommend Rizwaan for Student Representative of the Year. As our Course Rep, he is incredibly easy going and always easy to get ahold of whenever I need any help or support. He never hesitates to step in and clear up any queries we have regarding our studies. He takes his role as a student advocate seriously. He consistently facilitates transparent communication about university policies and works hard to resolve any challenges we face. His approachable nature and dedication make him a standout representative.

Rizwaan being our Course Rep for the MSc Aeronautical Engineering cohort. As an international student, Rizwaan personally helped me navigate how to make the most of USW's facilities and guided me around campus. He also helped me become familiar with the course content. We were teammates for our Robotics and Control module, and he demonstrated an incredible understanding of teamwork, he carried the team well and was always supportive whenever we had questions. Beyond helping individuals, he consistently ensures our feedback reaches the lecturers and gave us constant updates.

He has communicated to lecturers to show how collectively (in our postgrad course) we feel about the course.



# Rizwaan Ahmed Said Ghodiwala

## Student Representative of the Year

If there is one person who genuinely deserves the Student Representative of the Year award, it's Rizwaan. He doesn't just act as a voice for the students; he is incredibly hands-on when we actually need help. During a highly stressful period with tight deadlines, I ran into severe technical issues while trying to submit my coursework. Rizwaan immediately stepped in, helped me navigate the system, and made sure the problem was successfully resolved so I could submit on time. That level of dedication is exactly how he handles his broader duties for the MSc Aeronautical Engineering cohort. Whether he is pulling us out of a last-minute technical panic or sitting with the faculty board to drive strategic improvements to our curriculum, he always has our backs. He is a phenomenal advocate and a true asset to our course.

I am nominating Rizwaan because he has been a phenomenal Course Representative and an incredible personal support. Starting at a new university can be overwhelming, but Rizwaan made my transition into USW incredibly easy by taking the time to help me navigate both the Treforest campus and Cardiff. Academically, he always goes out of his way to make sure I fully understand the course material, helps me fix any technical glitches, and motivates me to produce work to a high standard. What truly sets him apart as a Course Rep is how he listens and acts on our behalf. For instance, I asked him about the possibility of the university offering technical licenses for software like SolidWorks and CATIA. Rizwaan immediately took this on board and strongly advocated for it with the faculty. Thanks to him passing this forward, we are now hopeful that the staff will incorporate SolidWorks licensing courses soon. He genuinely goes above and beyond to improve our MSc Aeronautical Engineering experience.



This nomination continues  
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# Sasha Gowers

## Student Representative of the Year

Sasha has been an exceptional course representative. As the course leader for a football programme, I am keen to contextualise our course and encourage professional football industry behaviours and standards. Sasha exemplifies the professional approach I would expect. As a year 1 student and course representative Sasha has acted in the manner I would expect from seasoned industry professional. In a football context, Sasha is my Captain, my leader within the group. Sasha has supported other students at community events, worked in the local community and also voluntarily giving up time to support staff at at Open and Applicant Days. Sasha has inspired other students to volunteer for football related charities. For example, Sasha has worked with Street Football Wales a social inclusion CIC that supports people at risk of social exclusion all over Wales.

Sasha has also helped with curriculum redesign ahead of CBC. She has sat in on year 3 assessment presentations and offered feedback on the process.

Sasha will be progressing to study and work in the USA in years 2 and 3. She will continue to act as course representative there. Uniquely supporting other students in a practical, industry based context.  
helped in all aspects of the course

Sasha has proven herself to be an outstanding course representative, consistently demonstrating professionalism well beyond her stage of study. As the lead for the programme, I place strong emphasis on embedding industry standards and behaviours into the student experience, and Sasha naturally embodies these expectations in everything she does.

Despite being in her first year, she conducts herself with the confidence, reliability, and leadership of an experienced professional. Within the cohort, she plays a pivotal role—someone others look to for guidance, much like a captain on the pitch who sets the tone for the entire team.



# Sasha Gowers

## Student Representative of the Year

Her contributions extend far beyond the classroom. Sasha has actively supported her peers at community-focused events, engaged in local initiatives, and generously volunteered her time to assist staff during Open and Applicant Days. She has also motivated fellow students to get involved in football-related charitable work. Notably, her involvement with Street Football Wales, a social inclusion organisation, highlights her commitment to using sport as a tool to support individuals facing social challenges across Wales.

Looking ahead, Sasha will continue her academic and professional journey in the United States during Years 2 and 3, where she will maintain her role as a course representative. In doing so, she will offer valuable peer support within a real-world, industry-focused environment, further strengthening her already impressive contribution to the programme.

# Sportsperson of the Year

Ava Grant

Rhiannon Weston-Smith

Victor Angaye

Zach Furnivall-Price





# **Ava Grant**

## Sportsperson of the Year

Ava has been such a supporting team captain for the women's badminton team this year. She has remained fair and inclusive, ensuring that team players always get an equal opportunity to play. This goes as far as to make sure all team players get the equal chance of playing doubles and single matches as everyone hates singles! She has also planned team socials that have not only been great fun but have helped the team to bond and become closer, which has aided the team's performance in matches.

She has pulled in, encouraged and supported upcoming social players when needed which will hopefully support the future of the team by developing players who can try out for the team next year. She is equally as supportive in social play, where she builds up our social players, giving them tips on their technique and giving them confidence in their play to try out next year. I truly believe that she has made a massive impact on the badminton club and the women's team and should be recognised for this contribution to USW sports.



# Rhiannon Weston-Smith

## Sportsperson of the Year

Rhi is the kind of teammate every club hopes for and every player looks up to. As Vice Captain, she has led by example from day one, consistently showing up with energy, determination, and a mindset that inspires everyone around her to raise their standards. Whether it's training in difficult conditions, early starts, long away days, or the pressure of match days, Rhi gives 100% every single time without complaint.

What makes Rhi stand out is that her contribution goes far beyond her own performance on the pitch. She is the first to encourage others when confidence is low, the first to step up when leadership is needed, and the person who keeps the team motivated when things get tough. She has helped create an environment where everyone feels included, supported, and driven to improve, regardless of ability or experience. Her work behind the scenes is just as impressive as what she does in games. From helping organise training, supporting new players, promoting team culture, and giving up countless hours to ensure the club runs smoothly, Rhi works tirelessly for the benefit of the whole team. Much of what she does often goes unnoticed, yet it has had a huge impact on the success, spirit, and identity of our hockey club. Our own club members voted her Impact Player of the Year.



# Victor Angaye

## Sportsperson of the Year

He was a crucial player for USW men's football 2s in the run to winning the western tier 4b football title that has secured promotion to the division above. He finished as the highest scorer in the league and actually scored the winning goal in the final minutes of the last game of the season against Gloucestershire men's 2s to win the title. He was always dependable and showed up every time the team needed him. That's why I think he deserves this award.



# Zach Furnivall-Price

## Sportsperson of the Year

This student has selflessly contributed to multiple sports teams in order to promote sport and health within the student body. The work they've put in for our team has encouraged over 20 students to pick up the sport and give it a go - every week they turn up to Sports Park full of energy and enthusiasm to coach the team using their own knowledge and experience without any expectation of reward. In our friendlies, they have offered their time to umpire matches, and provided supporting notes at the end of each game based on how they played.

Outside of our training, they choose to spend time practicing with their teammates in the park, growing everyone's understanding and skill of the game and boosting mental and physical health. The whole team wants to thank them for the effort they've put in throughout the year, and are very excited to take them on as a coach next year.

# Award for Outstanding Student Support

Jack Murphy-Salter

Karen Chamberlain

Kelly Malarz





# Jack Murphy-Salter

## Award for Outstanding Student Support

Jack tailors support to individuals, I have had support with Jack for 4 years now he has supported me throughout my undergrad and now my masters. He explains things very well, he is extremely understanding on disabilities and struggles and even if he is not knowledgeable on certain subjects he will find out ways to support and build a great rapport.

Jack has been my absolute lifeline this past year. His commitment, support, and patience have carried me through every part of my final year of uni. I truly couldn't have done any of it without him — not just the work, but the confidence he's helped me rebuild in myself. I'm beyond grateful.

Jack has been my Study support for the whole time during my studies. Jack is an amazing mentor, he never confused me, he explained everything I needed in layman terms, Jack has been my backbone, the people behind the scenes are sometimes forgotten and that is not right, credit is due where credit is due.

Jack has helped me a lot over the past 2 years with my documentation in order to make sure that it is as presentable as possible and up to USW standards. As someone who struggles a lot with written work in academics this has been an immeasurable help not just for my grades but in my confidence in my work too.

Really great help throughout and always there when I asked for help, couldn't have got through the year without him.



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# Karen Chamberlain

## Award for Outstanding Student Support

Karen Chamberlain represents the very highest standard of student support. As a psychology lab technician, she plays a vital academic role but her true impact extends far beyond what her job title could ever capture.

What makes Karen exceptional is her consistency. She is always available, always approachable, and unfailingly even-tempered, no matter the demand placed upon her. In a cohort where many students require time, reassurance, and guidance, she meets every individual exactly where they are and gives them precisely what they need. There is never a sense of impatience, never a drop in enthusiasm. There is only a steady, reassuring presence that students can rely on without hesitation.

It is difficult to overstate the scale of her contribution. Despite the obvious pressures of supporting so many students, Karen carries this responsibility with a level of passion that actively transforms the student experience. When students approach her feeling overwhelmed or uncertain, they leave not only with clarity, but with renewed confidence in their own ability. She has an extraordinary way of making students feel capable at the very moment they doubt themselves most.

What is perhaps most remarkable is that Karen consistently downplays her own impact. She is self-effacing to a fault, often minimising her role in students' successes. Yet across the cohort, her influence is undeniable. Many students attribute not only strong academic performance, but their decision to remain on the course itself, to her pastoral care and encouragement. Her support has helped students complete assignments they might otherwise have abandoned, achieve grades they did not believe were possible, and in some cases continue on to postgraduate study.



# **Karen Chamberlain**

## Award for Outstanding Student Support

On a personal level, Karen's support has been transformative. There have been multiple points where her guidance, reassurance, and belief made the difference between struggling alone and moving forward with confidence. She has a rare ability to make students feel that they are not a burden, but someone worth investing in. A shift in perspective that can change an entire academic journey.

Karen Chamberlain does not simply support students; she sustains them. Her impact is lasting, far-reaching, and deeply meaningful. For many, she is not just a source of academic guidance, but the reason they succeed at all.

It is for these reasons that she is an outstanding and truly deserving recipient of this award.

Karen is a valued member of staff in the psychology department, always friendly, approachable, and happy to help students.



# Kelly Malarz

## Award for Outstanding Student Support

I would like to nominate Kelly for Outstanding Student Support in recognition of the incredible work she does behind the scenes for students across the education courses. Kelly undoubtedly has one of the most demanding and unenviable roles – organising placements for around 250 students each year – yet she approaches this enormous responsibility with exceptional professionalism, organisation, and care.

Year after year, Kelly has been timely, thorough, and consistently supportive throughout what can often be a stressful process for students. Whenever concerns or issues arose, she always listened carefully and responded thoughtfully, whether that meant accommodating a change where possible or clearly explaining the reasoning behind placement decisions.

Her communication has always been reassuring, transparent, and respectful, which has made a huge difference to so many of us.

Kelly has worked tirelessly to match students with the right placements, mentors, and QA leads, ensuring that we were given opportunities where we could grow, succeed, and feel supported throughout our professional practice. The scale and complexity of this work is enormous, yet she handles it with efficiency and dedication that often goes unseen.

Our preparation for the future was truly in safe hands with Kelly, and the impact of her hard work has played a significant role in shaping our experiences and confidence as trainee teachers. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has done for us throughout our time on the course.

I am nominating Kelly because she has been incredibly supportive throughout my placement experience. Any time I've had questions, she has always taken the time to look into them properly and has come back to me quickly. When things didn't go to plan with one of my placements, Kelly was there at the end of the phone, offering reassurance and practical advice, and making sure I still had a positive experience. Her communication around placement allocations is clear and consistent, which really helps to make what is already a stressful time feel far more manageable.

# Staff Award for Student Partnership

Alex Holmes

Claire Pescott

Kathryn Haigh





# Alex Holmes

## Staff Award for Student Partnership

I would like to nominate this member of staff for this award in recognition of the genuine partnership they demonstrate in working alongside students. They are consistently present and actively engaged in Student–Staff Course Liaison Groups, where they do far more than attend; they listen carefully to student feedback, encourage open dialogue, and ensure that student voices are meaningfully represented and valued. Their commitment to partnership is evident in how they take student contributions seriously and transparently feed back on actions taken as a result.

Beyond formal meetings, they are proactive in considering and implementing organisational and course-level changes to improve the overall student experience. They consistently reflect on processes, structures, and learning environments, always asking how these can be improved to better support students both academically and professionally.

Importantly, they do not take a one-size-fits-all approach, but instead consider the diverse needs of students and how adjustments can enhance accessibility, engagement, and learning outcomes.

What sets them apart is their willingness to work with students rather than for students, fostering a collaborative culture where students feel respected as partners in their education. Their approach builds trust, empowers students to contribute confidently, and results in tangible improvements that directly enhance the quality of the student experience. This sustained commitment to collaboration, responsiveness, and shared decision-making exemplifies true partnership and makes them exceptionally deserving of this award.



# Claire Pescott

## Staff Award for Student Partnership

With my close-to-practice project she was so helpful. She gave use so many chances to read over anything and I really liked how we did everything bit by bit so that everything was seamless. She is very meticulous and wants you to reach such high standards. She made me excited to research and even more excited to show her my results. She gave me so many ideas and ways to tweak my work. This has turned out to be my favourite assignment yet and at the start it felt the most daunting all because of her. I now feel confident and aspire to potentially carry on my research in pursuing a masters post graduate.

I am nominating Claire because of her exceptional leadership, commitment, and impact on student success. She creates a supportive and inclusive learning environment where students feel valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. Her ability to engage students through dynamic, well-structured lessons and personalized support is outstanding. Additionally, her thoughtful use of feedback ensures that course materials and teaching strategies are constantly evolving to meet the needs of her students. Claire goes above and beyond to ensure that each student receives the guidance and resources they need, making her an invaluable member of staff who truly enhances the learning experience.



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# Kathryn Haigh

## Staff Award for Student Partnership

Kathryn has done a wonderful job during 2025/26 to work alongside/in partnership with the Students' Union and University professional services to ensure students have the best experiences during their time at USW. Her "big ideas" have "big impact", bringing together students and colleagues on a range of activities and events that do so much to create a sense of belonging and promote well-being.

I am pleased to nominate Kathryn Haigh for the Staff Award for Student Partnership in recognition of her outstanding commitment to genuine collaboration with students and her consistent dedication to co-creating meaningful student experiences. Kathryn exemplifies what true partnership looks like in practice—working with students, actively listening to their voices, and translating feedback into impactful action across wellbeing, engagement, and community-building initiatives.

Kathryn's approach is firmly rooted in collaboration and inclusion. She does not simply deliver activities for students; she works alongside them to shape events and opportunities that reflect their needs, interests, and cultural identities. This is clearly demonstrated through her continued support of student-led societies, including the Bangladeshi Society, African Society, and Christian Society. In each case, Kathryn has worked closely with student organisers to ensure events are well-supported, inclusive, and meaningful, helping students feel genuinely valued within the university community. A key strength in Kathryn's partnership approach is her ability to listen and respond to student feedback in a constructive and visible way. She has taken student input and transformed it into a diverse and engaging calendar of activities, including trips to Bath, Tenby, The Hundred cricket event, The Lido, and St Fagans. These opportunities were not developed in isolation—they reflect direct collaboration with students, ensuring that the experiences offered are relevant, enjoyable, and reflective of student interests.



# Kathryn Haigh

## Staff Award for Student Partnership

Kathryn has also demonstrated exceptional partnership in designing and delivering a year-round wellbeing programme. Working closely with students, she has co-created sessions such as fitness classes, craft workshops, cooking sessions, and nutrition courses. Her willingness to involve students in shaping these activities ensures that wellbeing provision is not only supportive but also engaging and student-led in spirit. Her collaborative ethos extends across departments and services. Kathryn works closely with Chaplaincy teams, resident life staff, Sports Park colleagues, and the Careers team to integrate student wellbeing across multiple areas of university life. Importantly, she ensures students are part of these conversations, helping bridge the gap between staff planning and student experience.

Kathryn also strengthens partnership through her leadership in inclusive campus-wide events such as Season of Joy, as well as awareness initiatives like Children in Need and Breast Cancer Awareness. In these projects, she actively encourages student participation and ensures that students are not just attendees but contributors to the planning and delivery process.

Perhaps most significantly, Kathryn's work demonstrates a consistent commitment to building a sense of belonging. Her organisation of bespoke student trips—particularly during holiday periods—shows a deep understanding of student needs, especially for those who may remain on campus. By working with students to design experiences such as ice hockey trips and cultural outings, she ensures that no student feels left out or disconnected.

Overall, Kathryn Haigh exemplifies outstanding student partnership through her collaborative leadership style, her responsiveness to student voice, and her commitment to co-creating meaningful experiences. Her work consistently reflects respect, inclusion, and shared ownership, making her an exceptional candidate for this award.

# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Impact Award

Eluned Ejiofor

Kathryn Haigh

Nova Corcoran





## Eluned Ejiófor

### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Impact Nomination

Eluned is an exceptional in equality, diversity, and inclusion, creating a respectful and open learning environment where all voices are valued. She approaches sensitive topics with insight and care, encouraging meaningful discussion and understanding. X always makes sure we are aware of different festivals, support networks and keeps us informed of students that are participating in religious celebrations for example Eid. She not only offered us the chance to participate in them but will also participate. Goes above and beyond to ensure inclusion for all, and to educate best practice.

Omg. Where do I start. Eluned has been an unwavering source of support for me during some of the most difficult experiences I have faced as a student. When I have encountered discrimination and felt unheard, she has been the one person I could rely on without hesitation. She has consistently reassured me that I matter, that I am not alone, and that what I am experiencing is not acceptable.

What makes Eluned truly exceptional is not just her empathy, but her action. She does not ignore or minimise issues she actively works to challenge discrimination, escalate concerns, and ensure that students like myself are protected and supported. She stands firmly against racism and abuse, advocating for fairness and equality at every opportunity. Her words and encouragement have kept me going at times when I felt like giving up. Knowing that someone genuinely believes in me and is willing to stand beside me has made a huge difference to my confidence and wellbeing. I can honestly say that without her, my experience would have been far more difficult.

Eluned embodies everything that Equality, Diversity and Inclusion should represent. She creates a safe space, empowers students, and ensures that our voices are heard. I truly could not ask for anyone better, and I believe she deserves recognition for the life-changing impact she has had on me and others.



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## Kathryn Haigh

### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Impact Nomination

I am pleased to nominate X Haigh for the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Impact Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to creating an inclusive, welcoming, and equitable student experience across all campuses. Through her role as Wellbeing and Early Intervention Team Leader within Student Life, Kathryn has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to ensuring that every student—regardless of background, identity, or circumstance—feels valued, represented, and supported.

Kathryn's impact on EDI is evident in the way she actively embeds inclusivity into both strategic planning and everyday student engagement. She has played a key role in supporting a wide range of cultural and identity-based student societies and events, including the Bangladeshi Society and African Society events, ensuring that students from diverse cultural backgrounds feel seen and celebrated within the university community. Her support is not superficial; she works closely with student organisers to ensure events are properly resourced, inclusive in design, and accessible to all students.

In addition, Kathryn has contributed significantly to faith and cultural inclusion through her collaboration with Chaplaincy and support for events such as Chinese New Year and Easter celebrations. These initiatives promote interfaith understanding and cultural awareness, helping to build a more cohesive and respectful campus environment where difference is recognised as a strength. Kathryn has also ensured that equality of access to enrichment opportunities remains central to her work. Her development of a year-round wellbeing and engagement calendar—including fitness sessions, craft workshops, cooking classes, and nutrition courses—has been designed with inclusivity in mind.



## **Kathryn Haigh**

### Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Impact Nomination

These activities are intentionally varied to appeal to students with different interests, abilities, and cultural preferences, ensuring that wellbeing support is accessible to all rather than limited to a specific group.

A particularly impactful aspect of Kathryn's work is her commitment to reducing social isolation and enhancing belonging for students who may otherwise feel excluded. Through carefully planned bespoke trips—such as ice hockey events, visits to Bath, Tenby, The Hundred cricket event, The Lido, and St Fagans—she ensures that students from all backgrounds have equal access to enriching experiences beyond the classroom. These initiatives are especially important for students who remain on campus during holidays or who may not typically engage in extracurricular activities.

Kathryn also demonstrates a strong commitment to student voice and co-creation, ensuring that EDI principles are embedded through collaboration rather than assumption. By actively responding to student feedback and involving students in shaping events and initiatives, she helps ensure that activities reflect the diverse needs of the student population. This participatory approach strengthens representation and empowers students to take ownership of their university experience.



## **Nova Corcoran**

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Impact Nomination**

Nova ensures to give a levelled ground when associating with students. She also promotes the inclusion and equality of all students in her lectures particularly more in MSc Public health which has a wide diversity of students.

From the very start of the course, she made EDI a priority, addressing it directly during induction and embedding it into how the course runs day to day. Through group tasks, she mixes us so that every group reflects the diversity of the cohort, ensuring everyone participates and feels included regardless of their background. In a subject like public health, where equality and diversity are at the heart of everything, she really leads by example

# Student-Led Group of the Year

Cheerleading and Dance

USW Lacrosse

Womens Hockey





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## **Coyotes Cheerleading and Dance** Student-Led Group of the Year

The Coyotes Cheer and Dance team exemplifies what it means to be inclusive, driven, and relentlessly supportive. At the heart of their success is a culture where every individual is valued, encouraged, and empowered to become the best version of themselves. Regardless of background or experience, each member is welcomed into an environment that prioritizes growth, respect, and genuine team unity.

What truly sets the Coyotes apart is their unwavering commitment—not only to representing the university with pride, but also to pushing personal boundaries and achieving excellence as individuals. This determination is reflected in their outstanding competitive success, including national championship victories, two second-place finishes, and exceptionally high-scoring dance performances. These achievements are not just a testament to talent, but to the discipline, resilience, and collective ambition that define the team.

Behind the scenes, the dedication of the committee and coaches has been instrumental. Their tireless efforts ensure the team runs smoothly, even during the most challenging times. They create a structure where athletes feel supported, prepared, and motivated to succeed, both on and off the stage. Their leadership fosters a sense of belonging and accountability that resonates throughout the entire team.



# **Coyotes Cheerleading and Dance**

## Student-Led Group of the Year

Every single member of the Coyotes contributes to this culture of excellence. Whether performing, supporting teammates, or working behind the scenes, each individual plays a vital role in the team's continued success. It is this shared commitment, passion, and unity that make the Coyotes truly deserving of recognition.

In every sense, the Coyotes are more than just a team—they are a community that uplifts, inspires, and achieves together.



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## USW Lacrosse Student-Led Group of the Year

For me, this group has improved my mental and physical health since I began in September. In such a short time, my confidence has skyrocketed - I am now able to comfortably go to the gym, engage in socials, speak with members of the student body, and have finally found an activity I look forward to each week. The committee have supported my progress both in training and with my studies, always looking at how to make the student experience better. They've done everything they can to push the sport out to more students, being present at every Open Day and Welcomefest to get students active and make the most out of their time at university.

I believe they are the most welcoming group USW has to offer as they are always ready for new members to try out at any time of the year or attend social events, and they permanently have a positive attitude whether its raining or dry. We've had the chances to play against and visit local teams and see our progression paths within the sport, which has inspired us to keep working hard and doing our best. We all look forward to training throughout the week, and as such hold meet-ups in the park to socialise and practice core skills, so the sport never feels like a responsibility.

I've made lifelong friends throughout the year I've been part of this group, getting to know every player on a personal level, and in turn have maximised my student satisfaction. I can't wait to play with them again next year!



## **USW Lacrosse** Student-Led Group of the Year

A really fun and exciting group to be with trying a new sport.  
Inclusive, fun and inviting group.

Working hard to put the team on the map! Lacrosse is an underappreciated sport and this year everyone worked so hard to get noticed. The team has grown so much this year, with all on the committee putting in immense effort to do so.  
Actually played games this year !

This group has given me the chance to become more confident in a different sport with their amazing kindness and motivation. They are so very welcoming and made me feel so comfortable over the past year. It is led by so phenomenal team captains who always have a plan ready for training to get everyone involved. They have become like a second family!

Lacrosse is one of the most fun sports I have ever done, I never really wanted to do sports as I felt as if I never fit in with everyone but everyone at Lacrosse made me feel so welcome, Varsity 26 was so fun because everyone was united as one, the team has grown so much this year and it's getting the recognition it deserves, the people who are in Lacrosse now is what makes lacrosse what it is now, the training sessions are fun. Big matches are coming next year and I think Lacrosse deserves this award



# Womens Hockey

## Student-Led Group of the Year

What makes this team so special is that it is far more than just a sports club, it is a community, a support system, and a family. Entirely driven by students, the hockey team has created an environment where everyone feels welcome, valued, and encouraged, regardless of experience, ability, or background. From complete beginners picking up a stick for the first time to experienced players competing at a high level, every member is made to feel like they belong.

What truly sets this group apart is the culture it has created. The team supports each other not only on the pitch, but off it too, through academic pressures, personal challenges, and everything university life brings. Success is celebrated together, setbacks are faced together, and every individual is encouraged to grow in confidence both as an athlete and as a person.

# Best Course Leader

(Per Faculty)

## Business and Creative Industries

Davina Evans  
Donald Amuah  
Hannah Coburn

## Computing, Engineering and Science

Amelia Grass  
James McCormack  
Karen Le Feurve

## Life Sciences and Education

Hayley Gibbon  
Rachel Taylor  
Stacey Rees





# Davina Evans

Business and Creative Industries

Davina made a huge difference to my experience on the course. After a very difficult experience with another lecturer, I came close to leaving and struggled with my confidence and sense of belonging. Davina was brilliant throughout. She gave me her full attention, made me feel genuinely supported, and helped me rebuild my confidence. Because of her support, I felt that I deserved to be there and was able to continue with the course. Her kindness, professionalism, and commitment had a lasting impact on me.

Because of Davina, I was able to complete my course with the grade I was hoping for, she has been a lifeline for me and I don't think she fully understands the impact she has had on us as a course. So thank you Davina, for all that you do!



# Donald Amuah

## Business and Creative Industries

I am nominating Donald for the Best Course Leader award because of the huge impact he had on my learning and confidence throughout the course.

I remember the small tips and discussions Donald used to share during workshops, which encouraged me to think differently. And the kind of energy and enthusiasm he used to bring to the course was amazing. Even subjects like risk management, which feels boring became engaging and interesting. Because of his teaching style, he managed 3 hours lecture much more interesting.

Two main things I would like to highlight which I learnt from Donald:

1. Donald used to share other students experiences in the UK and motivate us all the time. Once he mentioned that UK companies can apply for sponsorship licence if they value an employee's performance. I took that advice by heart and successfully convinced my employer to apply for a licence to sponsor me. So, this small advice of him played a major role in my career in the UK.
2. Best thing about Donald is that he makes students focus on gaining skills alongside with academics. He knew how important excel skill is in the workplace. He gave us a detailed finance model which took few weeks to work on, but it made me get some recognition at workplace. It was highly appreciated by my manager and also showed my employer the ability to manage large and complex excel datasheets.



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# Hannah Coburn

## Business and Creative Industries

I really struggled with my mental health this year. Hannah gave me a shoulder to cry on and made me feel like i wasn't crazy. She also ensured i recieved the support i need instantly. Hannah always made sure our course was run smoothly and dealt with any issues so quickly and effectively to make sure we got the most out of course.

She has always been by our sides and is always so enthusiastic, Hannah has been such a supportive and fun course leader and it was nice to have her as a lecture in modules as well. She really made the effort to get to know us and be prompt in responding to any concerns. I really struggled with my mental health this year. Hannah gave me a shoulder to cry on and made me feel like i wasn't crazy. She also ensured i recieved the support i need instantly. Hannah genuinely and wholeheartedly cares about each person on the course. She makes sure to know them as people while supporting everyone in their owns through the course always without judgement and true care and consideration. Hannah's support has been extraordinary, Hannah is always approachable and goes above and beyond for all of us. The care and support Hannah provides is invaluable. Hannah from my very first year has been supportive and always a friendly face in which I know, if something is bothering me either university wise or even personal I could always go to Hannah. It is obvious that Hannah always wants the best for all of us and she does everything in her power to make sure we make the best of ourselves. I was petrified coming to university as I thought I was going to be thrown into it but with Hannah as the course leader I feel as though we have our independence as young adults but also with a bit of guided support and if required that extra support can be given...



# Hannah Coburn

## Business and Creative Industries

... Hannah is the best course leader. As the class representative, I've had several meetings with her, and she always listens to me with great patience. She is truly passionate about her work and has supported me both academically and on LinkedIn. During my difficult times in Term 10, she was there for me, and I'm genuinely grateful for that. I can confidently say that if we had more people like Hannah, the world would be a better place. Went above and beyond to help me with my dissertation a great and fun teacher and overall a great person. I am nominating Hannah because she has been invaluable throughout all three years of my degree. She has consistently made every effort to make students feel comfortable and welcome to go to her with anything, and has consistently proven that our feedback on things that are working and things that are not has been equally valued. Always been there for me. She is so supportive and always makes sure everyone is happy and has everything they need. She is so passionate about our education and drives to push us to the best of our abilities. . Hannah has been my course leader for last three years. She is always available for her students and makes them her priority. She always sends us an email and even says in person to always come to her if we have any problem, even if we want somebody to talk to or only be listened to. She would be the first person among staff members, I would go to if I am in need of a help. She doesn't judge someone. Above all, she is enthusiastic and passionate of her role of course leader.



# Amelia Grass

## Computing, Engineering and Science

An amazing course leader always responds to emails and concerns, approachable and patient has a lot of time for the students and puts so much effort into the course. I would like to nominate her for the Award because of her exceptional dedication, passion, and continuous commitment towards both the course and her students. She is always thinking about how to improve the learning experience and create opportunities for students to grow academically and professionally.

One of the most impressive aspects of her work is the effort she puts into organising and leading academic expeditions and field trips. Despite the amount of work involved, she always approaches everything with enthusiasm and professionalism, making every experience valuable and engaging for students.

She is incredibly supportive and never gets tired of answering questions, no matter how busy she may be. She always takes time to reply to students, provide guidance, and ensure everyone understands the material. Her patience, kindness, and willingness to help truly make a difference.

She is also extremely inclusive and supportive towards international students. She understands that international students may sometimes face additional challenges or be unfamiliar with certain systems, and she always makes an effort to support and guide them. She treats every student equally, makes everyone feel comfortable and welcome, and ensures nobody feels left behind.

What makes her stand out the most is her genuine care for her students. If someone requires extra support or has specific learning needs, she always does her best to ensure everyone is on the same page and able to succeed. Her dedication, compassion, and passion for teaching make her truly deserving of this award.



# James McCormack

Computing, Engineering and Science

Very Friendly and happy to help, He always has time for us and stupid questions and concerns. James has been inspirational since his arrival as our course leader this academic year. He is relatable, but also very well informed and has helped me and others massively. He is also my project supervisor for my dissertation and he has been supportive and helped me loads. He is also emotionally supportive of us students and really understands how to get us through it all.

Always wanting feedback to improve for future years and listening to us when we have concerns and worries about the course. He is always a great laugh and can pick up the move easily. He is just the best . Being supportive and understanding .

James has dedicated this year to ensuring that the Forensic Investigation course was the best it could possibly be. His selflessness and care had such a huge impact on our cohort. When feedback has been given throughout the year he has actively worked to get solutions implemented and every student has felt comfortable enough to discuss their problems with him. An absolutely amazing course leader, it couldn't be more deserved.



# Karen Le Feuvre

Computing, Engineering and Science

Karen is an exceptional lecturer and a true inspiration to her students. She consistently demonstrates outstanding dedication to teaching and learning, taking the time to genuinely get to know each student as an individual. Her approachable nature and genuine care create a supportive and inclusive learning environment where everyone feels valued and encouraged to succeed.

Karen takes immense pride in her work and continually goes above and beyond to ensure her lectures are engaging, clear, and motivating. She is always willing to offer extra support, whether through additional guidance, encouragement, or simply taking the time to listen. No matter a student's ability or confidence level, Karen is committed to helping everyone reach their full potential.

What truly sets Karen apart is her passion for teaching and her unwavering commitment to her students' success. Her positive attitude, professionalism, and willingness to help in every way possible have had a lasting impact on those she teaches. She is not only an outstanding lecturer but also a role model who inspires confidence, growth, and a love of learning.



This nomination continues  
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# Hayley Gibbon

## Business and Creative Industries

I want to nominate Hayley Gibbon for Best Course Leader in recognition of her exceptional support and leadership.

Hayley has been outstanding in the way she communicates expectations and guides students through the course. She explains everything clearly and ensures we fully understand what is required of us, which has significantly improved my confidence and ability to meet deadlines. Her guidance is always easy to follow, and she has a real talent for breaking down complex information into something manageable and clear.

She has also stepped up to provide consistent support during periods when our original course leader has been away, ensuring no disruption to our learning. This reliability and commitment have not gone unnoticed and have been incredibly valuable to us as students.

Hayley is approachable, understanding, and genuinely enthusiastic about supporting students. She creates a positive and supportive learning environment where you feel comfortable asking questions and seeking help when needed.

Overall, Hayley is an amazing course leader who goes above and beyond for her students, and she is truly deserving of this recognition. Unbelievably supportive member of staff who has gone above and beyond to help students at the University. Goes absolutely above and beyond. Approachable, friendly, helpful and always quick to answer email queries. Dr. Hayley Gibbon represents the very best of what a course leader and lecturer should be. She combines exceptional organisation, clear communication, and genuine student advocacy with a level of teaching excellence that fundamentally changes how students experience learning. Hayley has supported me immensely during the last three years of my BSc Psychology. Nothing has been too much trouble, and her knowledge and expertise in the subject area has made studying really enjoyable.



# Hayley Gibbon

## Business and Creative Industries

As a course leader, she provides a structure and clarity that allows students to feel grounded within a demanding degree. Her communication is consistently precise and purposeful, ensuring that expectations are understood and support is always visible. More than this, she acts as a constant and reliable presence; a foundation that students naturally gravitate towards. In an environment where pressure can easily become overwhelming, she provides stability, direction, and reassurance.

Her commitment to student advocacy further distinguishes her. By chairing quarterly student representative meetings, she actively listens to student voices and ensures they are meaningfully represented at higher levels of the university. This is not a procedural responsibility, but one she approaches with genuine intent, demonstrating that she is there to serve and support her students in a tangible and impactful way. As a lecturer, particularly within Advanced Research Methods, Dr. Gibbon is exceptional. Her teaching style is defined by clarity, confidence, and complete command of her subject. She delivers complex material with a calm, even pace, free from hesitation or distraction, allowing students to fully engage with what is being taught. There is a precision to her delivery that reflects deep expertise and creates an environment where difficult concepts become accessible.

What sets her apart is her ability to transform engagement. Topics such as SPSS and statistics, areas that many students approach with genuine apprehension, become not only understandable, but engaging. Her passion and knowledge are evident in every lecture, and this translates directly into the student experience. She does not simply teach content; she changes how students relate to it.



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# Rachel Taylor

## Life Sciences and Education

In my career to date, I have worked at three different academic institutions, and I have never encountered a Course Lead who approaches their role with such a profound level of enthusiasm, passion, and genuine commitment for supporting students as Dr Rachel Taylor. She took a lead role in developing and currently leads our relatively new MSc Psychology conversion program. Rachel recognises that each student is an individual and supports them throughout their programme with us which can often be complex and challenging, as we have a large number of mature students who are often balancing the demands of parenting, caring responsibilities, and work commitments alongside their studies.

Rachel without a doubt goes significantly beyond the standard expectations of her role to ensure every student feels listened to and supported. This is evident in her willingness to be on hand to develop personalised calendars to manage their deadlines, a practice that has been hugely helpful to students and ensured they remain on the path toward success. Rachel is always willing to listen, and she develops an environment where students feel safe to voice their concerns, and she works tirelessly to ensure that those in complex situations are never left to work things out for themselves or feel isolated. This is especially impressive considering that this is a course delivered entirely online, though Rachel still manages to create a supportive environment and foster a sense of belonging that is vital at the postgraduate level.



# Rachel Taylor

## Life Sciences and Education

Beyond her exceptional pastoral work, Rachel has demonstrated incredible initiative this year by organising a hugely successful research showcase event in collaboration with our external partners. This event provided an opportunity for both current and past students to grow their confidence and present their work to professionals while developing incredibly engaging discussions of how to address real-world problems. This work that went into organising and running the event did not go unnoticed and this alone deserves recognition of going above and beyond by delivering additional opportunities for our students.

On a personal level, having such a supportive and organised course lead makes my own role significantly easier. Rachel is always happy to help and approaches every challenge with a collaborative spirit that lifts the entire team. Her dedication is a constant reminder of the impact a truly committed educator can have. Rachel really is an inspiration to her students and colleagues, and I do not know of anyone else more deserving of this award.



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# Stacey Rees

## Life Sciences and Education

Stacey simply holds everything together. Not only does she support us incredibly in our very small cohort, ensuring we are becoming the best nurses we can be but also helping us grow as people too. She is approachable, kind and so easy to talk to if we ever need help. Stacey makes me want to be better for my patients, learn more, grow more and is beyond an inspiration and we are so grateful for her support.

I would like to nominate this member of staff for Best Course Leader in recognition of their exceptional commitment to student support and course leadership. They are consistently highly responsive and regularly go above and beyond to support students, both while on placement and during taught theory periods. Their approachable and supportive manner ensures students feel listened to and valued, particularly during challenging times. They are also meticulous in their organisation and oversight, ensuring that academic, placement, and pastoral elements of the course are well coordinated to achieve the best possible outcomes for students. Their dedication, professionalism, and student-focused approach make them an outstanding course leader.

Stacey goes above and beyond for every student she has contact with, she is Learning disability nursing course leader, and is also covering for child nursing because the course lead is unwell. Stacey is always there to listen, to give advice. no matter how busy she is herself, no matter what she has going on in her own personal life she always puts every one else before herself. I know, anyone who has come through USW and Stacey will be exceptional at what they do, because they have had such an exceptional and supportive course leader.



# Stacey Rees

## Life Sciences and Education

This person is the most dedicated and passionate person I have met, regardless their role, their drive to make the world a better place is always above and beyond. In relation to the academic side of the course, Stacey is always giving our course extra information and events, although never mandatory for either side. For example, Stacey sends announcements with different webinars, local and national events, interesting articles and books for us to attend and explore. Another example is that she is always being creative in the ways she enables students to get involved, grow and learn more about our course, this is throughout years 1, 2 and 3, such as leading research and initiating projects.

The academic aspect is of course important, however, it's not the only reason why Stacey should be awarded course leader. Because Stacey is for the students and the course, 24/7. It doesn't matter where, when or why, if you need support, she is there. This is also including providing support with placement, which can host a multitude of problems, but it never seems too much. Stacey also promotes the course in whatever way she can, such as attending open days, promoting on social media and networking with prospective students.

Her passion is infectious... Whenever we're struggling with motivation in relation to the course, because we're balancing work/placement/family/studies, she never fails to reignite the spark and remind you why you're doing the course. She's a natural problem solver, a fair leader and a patient person. Collectively, as students, we're always saying about how we don't know what we would do without Stacey. Stacey is somebody with a wealth of knowledge, she strives to always be better for the students she teaches and is always open and receptive to feedback. Students who have finished the course (years later), still ask on placement for example how she's doing and sing her praises... This says so much right? Words are too simplistic to say how much we appreciate her and how fabulous she is; Hands down, the most deserving of this award.

# Most Impactful Team

Clinical Skills and Simulation  
Team

Primary Education Team

Wellbeing and Early Intervention  
Team





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# Clinical Skills and Simulation Team

## Most Impactful Team Nomination

I would like to nominate the staff of the simulation suite at the University of South Wales for the quick action to provide support and care for me when I collapsed and had seizures (never had seizures before).

On the 29th of January, I attended catheter skills training at the simulation centre at the University of South Wales. However, within the first hour of the lesson I collapsed onto a table gashing my chin. I understand that the staff quickly cleared the room and attended to me. They put a jumper under my head and put me into the recovery position. I was out for one minute. When I regained consciousness I remember seeing Hanna who offered reassurance. Dawn was on the phone to the ambulance service. However, out of the blue I remember my body losing control and having a seizure. When this happened the last thing I remembered was all of them jumping into action straight away without hesitation, for example, I heard "I will time it", "I will support his head" and Dawn informed the ambulance service straight away of me having a seizure. I cannot remember much due to the nature of the trauma but to my understanding I kept on having back-to-back seizures. I understand that during this time all staff members in the simulation centre came to support, this meant that they had to unfortunately stop teaching and postpone lessons. One staff member tended to my wound on my chin.



# Clinical Skills and Simulation Team

## Most Impactful Team Nomination

I am extremely grateful to the staff of the simulation suite for providing quick care and support for me without hesitation. They all dropped the lessons they were teaching to come and support me. I am grateful to them acting professionally and appropriately as they got everyone out of the room straight away. Furthermore, after coming out of hospital and recovering, Tamara suggested that it would be nice if myself and my mother would go and see them to discuss what happened and if I had any questions, I really appreciated this. They also created a risk assessment with me and gave me the opportunity to have a 1:1 skill session to do the catheter skills that I did not complete due to the incident. I really appreciated this and I feel they went above and beyond their duty and I will be forever grateful.

I am nominating the team at the Simulation Centre because they provide an exceptional learning environment for student nurses across all fields of nursing and education. They make sessions engaging, fun, and enjoyable, while providing valuable resources and reassurance whenever needed. The team supports students to learn at their own pace, ensures all questions are answered, and creates a welcoming environment that builds confidence, encourages learning, and helps students develop in practice.



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# Primary Education Team

## Most Impactful Team Nomination

I would like to nominate the entire BA Primary Education team for Most Impactful Team in recognition of the extraordinary support, dedication, and passion they have shown throughout our time on the course. Expertly led by Dr Chris Williams, the team has created a learning environment that is not only academically rigorous, but also deeply supportive, inclusive, and inspiring.

Across every year of the course, the team has consistently gone above and beyond for students. From innovative and engaging lectures, to thoughtful pastoral support, to the countless hours spent guiding us through placements, dissertations, and professional development, every member of the team has contributed to making this degree experience truly exceptional. They have created a culture where students feel valued, listened to, and encouraged to succeed, both personally and professionally.

What makes this team so impactful is the genuine care they show towards their students. Whether supporting us through difficult periods in our personal lives, helping us navigate challenges on placement, or simply taking the time to reassure and encourage us during stressful moments, the commitment shown by staff across the course has been unwavering. They have not only taught us how to become teachers, but have modelled the empathy, resilience, creativity, and professionalism that great educators embody...



# Primary Education Team

## Most Impactful Team Nomination

...At the heart of this is the leadership of Dr Chris Williams, whose commitment to the students under his care is evident in every aspect of the course. His leadership has created a team culture built on collaboration, innovation, and compassion, empowering both staff and students to thrive. The passion and drive demonstrated by the entire team would not be possible without the strong sense of community and shared purpose he has cultivated.

This is a course to be truly proud of, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have been a student here. The impact this team has had on us as future teachers will stay with us long after we leave university, and we are deeply grateful for everything they have done."



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# Wellbeing and Early Intervention Team

## Most Impactful Team Nomination

"I am pleased to nominate the Wellbeing and Early Intervention Team within Student Life for the Most Impactful Team Award in recognition of their outstanding contribution to enhancing student wellbeing, belonging, and engagement across all campuses. The team consistently delivers a proactive, inclusive, and student-centred service that has had a significant and lasting impact on the student experience.

At the core of their work is a preventative and early intervention approach to student support, ensuring students feel supported before issues escalate. This proactive model has helped build a culture of care and accessibility across the university, where wellbeing is embedded into everyday student life rather than treated as a separate service.

The team has delivered a wide-ranging year-round wellbeing programme, including fitness sessions, craft workshops, cooking classes, and nutrition courses. These activities support both mental and physical wellbeing while also encouraging social connection and reducing isolation among students from diverse backgrounds.

They have also played a key role in delivering inclusive, campus-wide events such as the "Season of Joy" Christmas programme, along with awareness campaigns for Children in Need and Breast Cancer Awareness. These initiatives bring students together, strengthen community spirit, and ensure that wellbeing is promoted in engaging and accessible ways...



# Wellbeing and Early Intervention Team

## Most Impactful Team Nomination

...A particularly impactful aspect of their work is their commitment to reducing isolation during holiday periods. Through bespoke trips such as ice hockey events, visits to Bath, Tenby, The Hundred cricket event, The Lido, and St Fagans, the team ensures students remain connected and included even when regular teaching is paused.

The team also demonstrates excellent partnership working across the university, collaborating with student societies (including the Bangladeshi, African, and Christian Societies), Chaplaincy, Resident Life, Sports Park, Careers services, and academic faculties. This joined-up approach ensures wellbeing is embedded across all areas of student life.

Importantly, the team actively responds to student feedback and uses it to shape and improve activities and experiences. This commitment to student voice ensures their provision remains relevant, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of the diverse student population.

The sheer volume of activities and events that they organise combined with the quality is unmatched. They recently organised a trip to an ice hockey game during the Easter break which I most definitely enjoyed and students who went as well that I spoke to would definitely share similar sentiments.

# Most Inspirational Student

Bethan Messenger-Roach

Emma Bustin

Rhiannon Weston-Smith

Sudirikku Chandi Nadeeshani De  
Silva





# **Bethan Messenger-Roach**

## Most Inspirational Student

This student is an exceptional and truly inspirational individual who demonstrates remarkable resilience and commitment across multiple areas of her life. As a mother to a son with a profound disability, she undertakes significant caregiving responsibilities, while also home educating her daughter. In addition, she has experienced a significant and deeply personal family loss, yet continues to fulfil her role as a practising healthcare professional.

Despite these considerable personal and professional demands, Bethan approaches her university studies with unwavering optimism, determination, and enthusiasm. Her ability to balance these responsibilities while maintaining such a high level of engagement and perseverance is outstanding.

Bethan exemplifies the qualities of resilience, dedication, and strength, and I cannot think of a more deserving candidate who so clearly embodies what it means to be an inspirational student.



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## Emma Bustin

### Most Inspirational Student

I met Emma on our 1st placement. And ever since we have just stuck side by side. In year 2 Emma spoke with me during a lecture saying she found a lump and she was awaiting an appointment. A few weeks later this incredible woman found out she had breast cancer and underwent surgery and chemo. Throughout all of this she was still attending university, supporting other students and submitting her assignments. What she has put into this degree given the circumstances is second to none. And in my eyes she is the only person suitable for this award. They say you make the best of friends at university and I certainly have with Emma.

Emma Bustin is a dear friend but a true inspiration. Everything she went through in her second year of study yet she still turned up to every lecture and every online session that she possibly could and has absolutely smashed it. I am so proud of her and she is going to be an amazing nurse ❤️

It is without a shadow of a doubt I knew who I wanted to nominate for this award. Emma's strength, resilience and determination over the past three years of this nursing degree have been nothing short of extraordinary. During the second, and arguable the most academically challenging year of our nursing degree, Emma was given the life-changing news that she had breast cancer. While facing the immense physical and emotional challenges of breast cancer, undergoing a mastectomy and chemotherapy—she continued to show up to lectures, placements and for her friends.



# Emma Bustin

## Most Inspirational Student

Undertaking a nursing degree alone is incredibly demanding requiring dedication, long hours and emotional resilience. To do all of this while battling cancer and raising children makes her achievements even more remarkable. Despite everything she has faced, she has continued to attend lectures, complete placement, and stay fully committed to her studies. This level of perseverance is a true testament to her courage and determination.

What makes her truly exceptional is not only her ability to keep going, but the way she carries herself through it all. She consistently brings warmth, positivity, and a smile that uplifts those around her, even on days when it would have been completely understandable not to. Her presence is a source of encouragement and inspiration to our entire cohort.

She exemplifies resilience in its purest form—facing adversity head-on while continuing to strive for her goals with grace and determination. Her journey reminds us all of the power of inner strength, and the importance of hope and perseverance.

She is, without question, an inspiration to everyone who has the privilege of learning alongside her, and I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition.

Emma truly deserves this award due to her incredible strength, resilience, and dedication throughout the past three years. Despite facing a breast cancer diagnosis, undergoing surgery, and completing chemotherapy treatment, Emma never gave up on studies or their goal of becoming a nurse. Emma's determination to continue the course during such a challenging time has been truly inspiring to myself and everyone on the course.

Beyond academic commitment, Emma has also been an amazing friend – always supportive, positive, and caring towards others even while facing her own battles. Emma's courage, perseverance, and compassion reflects the true spirit of nursing.



# Rhiannon Weston-Smith

## Most Inspirational Student

Rhi is the definition of commitment. She has shown up to every single lecture, no matter the circumstances, even on days when she was the only student in the room. That level of dedication to her education, her future, and making the most of every opportunity is something truly inspiring and says so much about her character.

Alongside the demands of university, Rhi has consistently gone above and beyond in every area of student life. Through her work with the Students' Union social media team, she has given countless hours to promoting student events, celebrating university life, and helping build a stronger student community.

On top of this, Rhi has also been an outstanding Vice Captain of the hockey team, leading by example through her commitment, encouragement, and unwavering support of others. Whether on the pitch, in lectures, or around campus, she brings positivity, determination, and a team-first attitude that lifts everyone around her.

What makes Rhi truly inspirational is not just how much she does, but how she does it, with humility, consistency, and a tireless work ethic. She never looks for praise, never takes shortcuts, and always gives 100% to everything she commits herself to.

Rhi embodies everything that student life should represent! resilience, leadership, community, and passion! I cannot think of anyone more deserving of the award of Most Inspirational Student of the Year



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# Sudirikku Chandi Nadeeshani De Silva

## Most Inspirational Student

I am confident in putting myself forward for the Most Inspirational Student award, as I have consistently demonstrated active engagement, commitment, and a positive approach throughout my academic journey. I maintain regular attendance and actively participate in coursework, workshops, and all learning opportunities, showing a genuine dedication to my studies.

Beyond the classroom, I challenged myself to step outside my comfort zone by actively participating in the Industry Month organized by the University of South Wales. Through this, I was honored to receive the Engagement Brand Ambassador award and additional recognition for my contribution to group work in the Grand Challenge. These achievements reflect not only my enthusiasm but also my willingness to collaborate, lead, and contribute meaningfully in team environments. And also i supported every student of my batch if there is any difficulties with their course works where they are clueless in getting contacted with related lectures or advise zone at their panick moment , which lead me to make myself more kind and confident person to move through.

What makes me a strong candidate for this award is my self-motivation and growth mindset. I continuously strive to develop my academic and professional skills by making full use of the opportunities and guidance provided by lecturers. I also aim to inspire others by staying engaged, supporting peers during group activities, and maintaining a consistent, disciplined approach to learning.

Overall, my proactive involvement, resilience, and commitment to both personal and collective success demonstrate the qualities of a Most Inspirational Student.



# Sudirikku Chandi Nadeeshani De Silva

## Most Inspirational Student

I am nominating her for the Most Inspiring Student Award because she has consistently shown what quiet strength, determination, and genuine character look like in real life.

She approaches her studies with focus and discipline, never looking for shortcuts, and always pushing herself to do better. What truly sets her apart, though, is how she carries others along with her. She is always ready to help classmates, share notes, explain difficult topics, and encourage people when they feel overwhelmed. Her support has made a real difference to many students, including me.

She handles challenges with calmness and maturity. Instead of complaining, she finds solutions. Instead of seeking attention, she puts in the work. Her positive attitude, resilience, and willingness to uplift others create a ripple effect in the classroom and beyond. She inspires not by words, but by actions. Her consistency, kindness, and work ethic make her someone others naturally look up to. For these reasons, I believe she truly deserves to be recognised as the Most Inspiring Student.

I strongly recommend her for the Most Inspirational Student award. As one of her course mates, I have seen her consistently attend classes, actively engage in coursework, and contribute meaningfully during workshops. She motivates those around her through her dedication and positive attitude toward learning.

She also stepped forward during Industry Month at the University of South Wales, earning the Engagement Brand Ambassador award and recognition in the Grand Challenge group activities. Her willingness to participate, collaborate, and lead by example makes her stand out. She is self-driven, makes the most of every opportunity provided by lecturers, and inspires others to stay focused and committed. For these reasons, she is truly deserving of the Most Inspirational Student award.

# Students' Union Staff Member of the Year

Emma Powell

Joanne Came

Keatan Rees





## Emma Powell

### Students' Union Staff Member of the Year

I would like to nominate Emma Powell for the SU Staff Member of the Year award.

Emma Powell is an incredibly supportive, kind, and approachable member of the Students' Union team. In her role within HR and Operations, she consistently creates a positive and welcoming environment where staff feel valued, respected, and supported.

She is always willing to listen and help, no matter how big or small the issue may be. Her calm and understanding nature makes people feel comfortable speaking to her, and she handles situations with professionalism, fairness, and genuine care.

What stands out most about Emma is how much she cares about people. She works hard to ensure staff wellbeing is prioritised while also supporting the wider goals of the Students' Union and student experience. Her support and guidance have a positive impact on many people across the organisation.

Emma's kindness, reliability, and dedication make her a highly respected member of the SU team. She consistently goes above and beyond in her role, and she is truly deserving of recognition for the difference she makes every day.



## **Joanne Came**

### Students' Union Staff Member of the Year

Jo is an unsung hero. She goes about her role quietly, but effectively. Not only does she provide excellent service to her SU colleagues, but she is also very well-known by the student workers community across the University, who appreciate the "employment agency" role she undertakes to ensure they are employed and paid in accordance with University and external regulations.

I would like to nominate Jo for SU Staff Member of the Year in recognition of her exceptional dedication, professionalism and support to both students and staff.

What truly sets Jo apart is her willingness to go above and beyond. Jo works tirelessly behind the scenes managing payroll. She regularly accommodates requests beyond deadlines, always striving to find solutions and help wherever she can. Her reliability, attention to detail and calm approach make a huge difference to everyone around her.

Her commitment, work ethic and genuine care for people make her an outstanding member of the SU team and thoroughly deserving of this award.



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## **Keatan Rees**

### Students' Union Staff Member of the Year

This staff member has always been available for a chat or providing support for our club. At the start of the year, when our club was struggling, they were always willing to support us by providing any information we needed and researching how we could improve our operations. They have always been welcoming and encouraging with everything students are going through, and has always put them first. They make time to ask about students' wellbeing whenever they see them, establishing a strong personal connection with everyone they meet, and always asks about how the SU can improve services to make the most out of student experiences.

They have become an integral part of the Students Union team, heavily supporting the elections by encouraging students to vote and even accommodated me with the election briefing as I was away for a family emergency during the scheduled briefing. I would like to nominate Keatan Rees – Democracy & Campaigns Co-ordinator (Students' Union) for the SU Staff Member of the Year award.

Keatan has consistently demonstrated outstanding dedication, professionalism, and genuine care for students across the university. He goes far beyond his role expectations by actively engaging with students, listening to their concerns, and ensuring their voices are not only heard but acted upon within the Students' Union and wider university structures.



## Keatan Rees

### Students' Union Staff Member of the Year

What makes Keatan particularly exceptional is his ability to make democracy and campaigns feel accessible and meaningful. He has a real talent for breaking down complex SU processes and empowering students to understand how they can influence change. Whether it is supporting student-led campaigns, guiding representatives, or encouraging participation in democratic activities, he does so with patience, enthusiasm, and clarity.

Keatan is also highly approachable and consistently supportive. He creates a welcoming environment where students feel comfortable sharing their ideas and challenges. Many students, including myself, feel genuinely listened to and valued when engaging with him. His responsiveness and willingness to help, even outside standard expectations, reflect his strong commitment to student wellbeing and engagement.

Beyond his day-to-day responsibilities, Keatan has had a lasting impact on student engagement and empowerment within the SU. His work strengthens the connection between students and the institution, ensuring that student representation is meaningful rather than symbolic. He is a key reason many students feel confident in raising issues and participating in change.

Overall, Keatan Rees is an exceptional member of SU staff who has made a significant and positive difference to the student experience.

His passion, dedication, and consistent support make him truly deserving of the SU Staff Member of the Year award.

Helpful patient and encouraging goes to a great length to explain roles.