



IHE Awards 2024

The IHE Awards are an annual celebration of the innovation and excellent practice taking place in independent providers, recognising and rewarding quality across the full breadth of IHE member activity.

This year, awards will be presented to member institutions and individuals across 10 categories – with one new award category for 2024.

Awards categories: Member institutions

- **Empowering Student Voice - NEW for 2024!**

Recognising IHE members who are empowering students to use their voice to effect change and make a positive difference in their institution.

- **Inspiring Course**

Recognising IHE members who are transforming the learning experience of students and delivering impact through innovative course design, content and delivery.

- **Technology Enhanced Learning**

Recognising IHE members who are evolving their use of technology to enhance the learner experience.

▪ **Supporting Student Success**

Recognising IHE members who are taking a proactive approach to supporting students throughout the student journey.

▪ **Outstanding Collaboration**

Recognising IHE members who are taking innovative approaches to building and maintaining links with industry and/or in the local community.

▪ **Advancing International Education**

Recognising IHE members who are implementing initiatives to enhance the international student experience, promote the benefits of internationalisation, and develop their international offer.

▪ **Supporting Staff Wellbeing**

Recognising IHE members who are taking a proactive approach to supporting employees and fostering a positive working environment.

▪ **Outstanding Contribution to the IHE Community**

Recognising IHE member institutions who have demonstrated commitment to the IHE community and taken an active role in supporting our work as a representative body.

Awards categories: Individual

▪ **Rising Star**

Recognising individuals who are making a difference in the IHE community through their sustained and growing contribution to the work of IHE.

▪ **Outstanding Contribution to the IHE Community**

Recognising individuals whose personal efforts and dedication have significantly enriched and uplifted the IHE community, leaving a lasting and meaningful imprint on the work of IHE.

How to enter

IHE Awards are open to [IHE members](#) only. Members may enter more than one award category.

Only entries submitted via the relevant nomination form will be accepted.

For each entry, members should demonstrate the ways in which they meet the award criteria. There is no expectation to complete all sections of the form – entries do not need to fulfil every single criteria – but members must complete a minimum of one section for each award entry.

The total word count for each award submission should be no more than **700 words** (not including contact details or the synopsis). Nominations exceeding the maximum word count will not be considered.

Entries will be judged on the information submitted via the nomination form alone. Web links to further information can be incorporated into relevant sections but should not be used excessively. Supplementary material, such as images or supporting documents, will not be accepted.

The nomination form also asks members to write a brief (200 words) synopsis of their award entry. This will be used for shortlisted entries in any supporting materials we create as part of awards promotion. We may also request supplementary material to promote shortlisted nominees and eventual winners through our communications channels, including the IHE website and on social media.

Members are encouraged to read about [last year's winners](#) to see the types of projects, programmes, initiatives and strategies previously nominated for awards.

Deadline for entries

The deadline for entries is **Wednesday 2 October 2024**.

What happens next?

A panel of judges formed of representatives from the higher education sector and IHE Partners and Supporters will select the winners.

A shortlist will be published on our website and all finalists will be notified by email in early November.

Winners will be announced at the IHE Awards ceremony on the evening of Tuesday 26 November 2024 at One Great George Street in London, immediately following the [IHE Annual Conference 2024](#).



EMPOWERING STUDENT VOICE

NEW for 2024!

The perspectives and experiences of students are more important than ever in the creation and delivery of inclusive and responsive higher education.

This award will recognise IHE members who are empowering students to use their voice to effect change and make a positive difference in their institution.

Members should tell us how they are meaningfully engaging their students through:

- embedding student voice and partnership in decision making at different levels, through structures that are supportive of timely resolution and long-term institutional learning;

and/or

- facilitating and supporting student representation through formal and informal structures, recognising barriers to participation and adapting to different contexts;

and/or

- delivering training and support to student representatives;

and/or

- working compassionately in partnership with students to co-design or co-produce strategy/policy/services/initiatives.

[Submit your nomination for Empowering Student Voice](#)



**INDEPENDENT
HIGHER
EDUCATION
AWARDS
2024**

INSPIRING COURSE

Independent providers are known for doing things differently.

This award will recognise IHE members who are transforming the learning experience of students and delivering impact through innovative course design, content and delivery.

Members should choose a specific course (as best defined in their context) and tell us how its design, content and/or delivery:

- uses innovative technology, pedagogy or practice to provide a unique and impactful student learning experience;

and/or

- engages different knowledge and skills from across, and outside of, the education sector;

and/or

- is co-created with students;

and/or

- embeds the latest research;

and/or

- responds to industry need for education in niche or developing areas.

[Submit your nomination for Inspiring Course](#)



TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING

The changing nature of higher education delivery demands that providers keep pace with developments in digital learning methods to meet the needs of students.

This award will recognise IHE members who are evolving their use of technology to enhance the learner experience.

Members should tell us how, across their programmes or in a specific context, they:

- use innovative digital delivery methods;
and/or
- demonstrate excellence in teaching digital skills relevant to their specialism;
and/or
- create a supportive environment for staff and students to develop their digital literacy;
and/or
- use learner analytics to support student success.

[Submit your nomination for Technology Enhanced Learning](#)



SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

IHE champions the unique, inclusive and innovative approaches that members take to supporting students to succeed. Behind the metrics are the human stories of how providers facilitate retention and good outcomes.

This award will recognise IHE members who are taking a proactive approach to supporting students throughout the student journey.

Members should include a specific programme of work or an institution-wide strategy which:

- establishes targeted interventions throughout the student journey, from entry through to course completion and into employment;

and/or

- co-creates support services with students;

and/or

- demonstrates support for students with different needs (e.g. widening participation students, international students, students with disabilities, students with other protected characteristics);

and/or

- engages staff across roles and levels to support students, including academic staff, support staff and those with specific roles in student experience.

[Submit your nomination for Supporting Student Success](#)



OUTSTANDING COLLABORATION

As small and specialist providers, IHE members can benefit from developing place-based and sector-led collaborative partnerships.

This award will recognise IHE members who are taking innovative approaches to building and maintaining links with industry and/or in the local community.

Members should tell us about a specific project or an institution-wide strategy which:

- creates opportunities to integrate industry practitioners into the curriculum, or as part of co-curricular activity;
and/or
- delivers knowledge exchange activities with sector and/or community partners;
and/or
- establishes best practice to improve industry standards;
and/or
- addresses local skills needs through the creation of work experience and civic engagement opportunities;
and/or
- explores new areas of research or innovation to expand subject or industry knowledge.

[Submit your nomination for Outstanding Collaboration](#)



ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Building an international reputation for educational excellence is critical to the global competitiveness of the UK.

This award will recognise IHE members who are implementing initiatives to enhance the international student experience, promote the benefits of internationalisation, and develop their international offer.

Members should include a specific initiative or outline their overall international strategy for:

- improving the international student experience throughout each stage of the student lifecycle;
and/or
- supporting cultural exchange between international students, domestic students and their local community;
and/or
- establishing international higher education partnerships or collaborations with global industry;
and/or
- delivering programmes or professional training in overseas markets.

[Submit your nomination for Advancing International Education](#)



SUPPORTING STAFF WELLBEING

The good health and wellbeing of the independent sector's workforce is critical to the success of independent providers, with the wellbeing of staff linked to that of students.

This award will recognise IHE members who are taking a proactive approach to supporting employees and fostering a positive working environment.

Members should tell us about a specific initiative or an institution-wide strategy which:

- helps to create an inclusive and supportive staff community;
and/or
- supports staff to achieve a healthy work-life balance;
and/or
- delivers coordinated support across staff groups and teams
and/or
- demonstrates a whole-institution approach to mental health support.

[Submit your nomination for Supporting Staff Wellbeing](#)



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE IHE COMMUNITY

This award will recognise **IHE member institutions** who have demonstrated commitment to the IHE community and taken an active role in supporting our work as a representative body.

This member will be known for:

- collaborating with other IHE members;
- offering support and guidance to other IHE members;
- actively participating in IHE events, offering speakers from within their organisation;
- encouraging their staff and students to take roles on IHE committees or staff networks, and participate in forums or roundtable discussions;
- representing the IHE community at a national level through engagement with broader sector activity, or by taking governance roles.

Nominations are not open for this award. The recipient will be selected by the IHE Board.



This award will recognise **individuals** who are making a difference in the IHE community through their sustained and growing contribution to the work of IHE.

This individual will be known for:

- readily sharing knowledge, experience and expertise through their engagement with formal IHE groups, such as member networks and forums, and/or participating in roundtable discussions;
- offering help and advice to others in the IHE community;
- representing the IHE community when engaging with internal and external stakeholders;
- fostering a spirit of collegiality in the IHE community;
- demonstrating commitment and passion in their area of work.

[Submit your nomination for Rising Star](#)



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE IHE COMMUNITY

This award will recognise individuals whose personal efforts and dedication have significantly enriched and uplifted the IHE community, leaving a lasting and meaningful imprint on the work of IHE.

This individual will be known for:

- formally representing independent providers in sector/national level discussions, sharing IHE's mission with key stakeholders;
- readily offering views and thoughts at IHE conferences, meetings and events;
- offering help and advice to other IHE members;
- acting as an ambassador for the IHE community;
- promoting the work of independent providers and the role of the IHE community within the broader sector.

Nominations are not open for this award. The recipient will be selected by the IHE Board.