



# IHE Awards 2025

## How to enter

IHE Awards are open to current [IHE Members](#) only. Nominees should read the Terms and Conditions at the end of this pack ahead of submitting an entry.

All nominations must be submitted online via the official nomination form. Entries will be judged on the information submitted via the nomination form alone. For each entry, nominees must demonstrate how they meet the award criteria. Entries do not need to fulfil all criteria, but completion of a minimum of one criteria section is required for each award.

The total word count for each award submission should be no more than **700 words**.

Members are encouraged to revisit [last year's winners](#) to see examples of the types of projects, programmes, initiatives and strategies that gained recognition, along with a summary of judges' comments and feedback on what made them stand out.

## Deadline for entries

The deadline for entries is **23:59 on Thursday 2 October 2025**.

## Shortlists and winners

Shortlists will be published in early November. Winners will be announced at the IHE Awards ceremony on the evening of Wednesday 26 November 2025 at the Royal College of Physicians (RCP London) immediately following the [IHE Annual Conference 2025](#).



# EMPOWERING STUDENT VOICE

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.

[ENTER IN THIS CATEGORY](#)



# 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.

[ENTER IN THIS CATEGORY](#)



**INDEPENDENT  
HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
AWARDS  
2025**

# **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.

[ENTER IN THIS CATEGORY](#)



# 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.

[ENTER IN THIS CATEGORY](#)



## 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.

[ENTER IN THIS CATEGORY](#)



# 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.

[ENTER IN THIS CATEGORY](#)



## **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE IHE COMMUNITY (PROVIDER)**

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 determined 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.

[NOMINATE IN THIS CATEGORY](#)



## **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE IHE COMMUNITY (INDIVIDUAL)**

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.

To propose a nominee for this award, please contact [info@ihe.ac.uk](mailto:info@ihe.ac.uk). Winners in this category will be determined by the IHE Board.

# Terms and Conditions

## Eligibility

- IHE Awards are open to current [IHE Members](#) only.
- Nominations must be submitted by the deadline of **23:59 on Thursday 2 October**. Entries received after this date will not be considered.
- Members may enter more than one award category, but each entry must be a unique submission. The same nomination cannot be submitted to multiple categories. Duplicate submissions will not be accepted.
- If the nomination relates to an initiative or project carried out in collaboration with another Member institution, the submission should come from the lead institution.

## Nomination process

- All nominations must be submitted online via the official nomination form.
- Nominees must demonstrate how they meet the award criteria. Completion of a minimum of one criteria section is required for each award.
- Nominations will be assessed against the published criteria.
- Entries will be judged on the information submitted via the nomination form alone. Web links to further information may be incorporated into relevant sections but should not be used excessively.
- Supplementary material, such as images or supporting documents, will not be considered and should not be sent as separate files.
- The main submission is limited to a **maximum of 700 words**. Entries exceeding this word count will not be accepted.

## Judging process

- With the exception of the Outstanding Contribution and Rising Star categories, awards will be judged by an independent panel formed of representatives from across the higher education community and supporting organisations.
- Judges will be selected for their expertise and impartiality.
- Judges will be asked to declare potential conflicts of interest in relation to nominees. IHE will implement appropriate measures to ensure fair assessment.
- The winners of the Outstanding Contribution and Rising Star awards will be determined by the IHE Board.
- Judging decisions are final. No further correspondence will be entered into.

## Intellectual property, data protection and confidentiality

- Nominees retain ownership of submitted nominations.
- By submitting a nomination, nominees grant IHE the right to use the synopsis of their award entry in promotional materials across digital platforms, including the IHE website, social media channels, and email communications.
- IHE may refer to the practice highlighted in award entries as part of ongoing engagement with external stakeholders, including government departments, regulatory bodies, and sector organisations.
- Consent for the publication of extracts from award entries in other IHE materials and outputs will be sought, where appropriate.
- Any personal data collected through nominations will be handled securely and processed in accordance with GDPR.
- IHE will respect and protect the confidentiality of any information specifically identified as confidential or commercially sensitive.

## Awards ceremony and recognition

- Winners will be announced at the IHE Awards ceremony, which takes place on the evening of Wednesday 26 November 2025 at the Royal College of Physicians (RCP London).
- Winners will receive an award trophy and customised IHE Awards logo with guidelines for use.
- IHE retains ownership and copyright of IHE Awards logos.
- IHE Awards are solely for the intended recipient and are non-transferable: awards conferred on an individual may not be assigned to an institution.
- IHE retains the right to request the removal of IHE Awards logos from materials where there has been a breach of conditions of use or evidence of misleading association.
- IHE will publish case studies of awards winners.
- Media coverage and publicity opportunities may be provided.

## Compliance and conduct

- All information included in nominations must be accurate and verifiable. The submission of false or misleading information will result in immediate disqualification.
- Members under investigation by IHE are not eligible to enter (see [IHE Membership Regulations: M10](#)).
- Entries received from Members who are suspended or placed on investigatory probation during the nomination and judging window will be discounted and immediately removed from the process.
- Previous winners whose membership is subsequently suspended or terminated will lose the right to be publicly recognised as an IHE Award winner.
- IHE reserves the right to revoke an award if inaccurate information is discovered after an award has been granted.

- Awards may also be withdrawn from individuals who are implicated in misconduct or where there is evidence of behaviour incompatible with the values of IHE.

If you have any questions regarding these terms and conditions or would like to know more about the IHE Awards, please contact Gemma Green, Director of External Relations: [gemma@ihe.ac.uk](mailto:gemma@ihe.ac.uk)