

KEELE SU PRESENTS

KEELE SU AWARDS

AWARDS GUIDE
2026

HOW DOES IT WORK?

This is an annual celebration that honours the outstanding achievements and contributions of our diverse student population. The awards recognise the hard work, dedication, and creativity of our members, highlighting their impact on the Keele community.

We encourage all students to nominate themselves or someone else for one or more awards.

You do not need to be on a society committee to submit a nomination and it is your responsibility to make sure a nomination has been submitted for an individual or your student group.

Late applications will not be considered.

All entries are shortlisted by the Keele SU panel. Winners are then chosen by the same group or our awards sponsors, where relevant.

Key Dates:

Nominations Open: Monday 30th March

Nominations Close: 9 AM, 27th April

Shortlist Announced: 1st May

Awards Night: Thursday 15th May, 6:30pm



SOCIETY OF THE YEAR

Nominees could be a new or longstanding society who have excelled over the last 12 months, having made a huge impact on the student population and/or given outstanding service to its members.

The judges will also be looking for:

- Evidence of organisational ability (administration /events /activities /campaigns /communication with members).
- Evidence of development over the last 12 months, such as a development plan, diversity/inclusivity initiatives, increase in membership.
- Involvement with the wider community and other areas such as volunteering will also be considered.
- Promotion of society activities through promotional channels (e.g. webpages and social media).
- Evidence of a high number and wide range of different society activities this academic year, with high levels of student participation.
- Evidence of significant achievements of the society or individual members that has served to enhance the reputation and profile of the society this year.



NEW SOCIETY OF THE YEAR

This award will be presented to a society that has been formed since the start of this academic year, and whose activities and achievements throughout the year have been successful and beneficial.

The judges will also be looking for:

- Evidence of the society fully achieving their aims.
- Activities of the Society have in some way empowered their members to either achieve more as an individual or positively impact on the University community.
- Made excellent use of Keele SU initiatives and resources.
- Focused efforts on gaining membership and securing the longevity of the society.
- Provided evidence of realistic planning for both short term and long term aims.
- Held multiple events to raise awareness of the society.



COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

This award is given to a committee member of a society that has helped the group come through adversity over the year. This could be continuing a society through increasing membership numbers, supporting the rest of the committee, and helping the society through new achievements

The judges will be looking for:

- Went above and beyond in increasing membership numbers, working through all the admin needed for the society.
- Worked towards getting society in a better financial position over the year, either through membership sales, fundraising, or sponsorship,
- Acted as a role model for the society, showing passion and dedication for the group and determination to develop the society.
- Has laid out the foundations for the society, allowing it to develop and improve for years to come.

SOCIETY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

This award is given to a member of a society that has been a dedicated and engaged participant, whose presence is unmatched and is considered a core representative of what a member should be. This could be through their constant attendance, helping out despite not being on committee, stepping up in numerous ways, or just being an amazing person who you feel makes the society just that much better.

The judges will be looking for:

- Clear examples of how this member has contributed to the environment of your society.
- How they are perceived and what makes them so integral to the society.
- Acted as a role model for the other members of the society, showing passion and dedication for the group and determination to improve and support the society.
- What makes them stand out above other members from other societies who may be nominated.



COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

This award recognises a student/group who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to making a positive difference within the community. This award celebrates individuals who have shown initiative, compassion, and leadership by contributing their time, energy, or creativity to support others.

Whether through fundraising efforts, organising community events, raising awareness on important issues, or championing a cause that inspires change, the recipient of this award has actively worked to improve the lives of others and strengthen the community around them.

This award honours students who lead by example and embody the spirit of service, empathy, and social responsibility.

Judges will be looking for:

- Has made a meaningful impact through volunteering, fundraising, awareness campaigns, or community engagement initiatives.
- Has improved the experiences or wellbeing of others within the school or wider community.
- Has shown the ability to independently identify a need or issue and take proactive steps to address it.
- Demonstrates leadership by organising events, motivating peers, or collaborating with others to achieve a shared goal.
- Has used creative approaches to fundraise, educate others, or advocate for an important cause.
- Shows original thinking in planning and delivering community-focused projects.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

This award celebrates a student who truly embodies the spirit of volunteering and has made a meaningful impact on the Keele community. All nominees must be actively logging their volunteering hours through the Keele SU Volunteering Awards programme; this will be verified during judging.

Nominees should demonstrate at least two of the following:

- A sustained and significant commitment to their chosen charity or project
- A clear and positive impact on the organisation or community they support
- Innovative approaches that have improved the work or effectiveness of the project or charity

STUDENT VOICE REPS ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD

Awarded to a Student Voice Rep who has overcome challenges and made significant changes within their programme or school. Criteria include:

- Excellent attendance at meetings.
- Visibility to staff and students.
- Evidence of overcoming challenges to achieve change.



VOICE REP OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a Student Voice Rep who has excelled in their duties, providing dedicated representation and solving issues. Criteria include:

- Outstanding commitment to representation.
- Demonstrating achievements.
- Excellent attendance at meetings.
- Visibility to staff and students.
- Initiative in solving student issues.
- Completed training.
- Engagement with Lead School Voice Rep.
- Commitment to gathering and feeding back student feedback.
- Engagement with education issues outside the Voice Rep System.

SCHOOL VOICE REP OF THE YEAR

Awarded to a Lead Student Voice Rep who has excelled in their duties, providing dedicated representation and solving issues within their school.

Criteria include:

- Outstanding commitment to representation.
- Demonstrating achievements.
- Excellent attendance at meetings.
- Initiative in solving student issues.
- Attendance at meetings beyond programme and school level.
- Good relationship with staff and students.
- Submission of reports to the Education Officer.
- Attendance at meetings with the Education Officer and Student Voice team.



NETWORK LEAD OF THE YEAR

This award goes to the Network Lead who has excelled the most in their duties as a Network Lead: providing dedicated campaigns & awareness to their fellow students, helping to solve issues, and developing staff-student relationships to champion inclusion at all levels. They will have attended a number of meetings to represent their communities such as University Voice Committee.

The judges will be looking for:

- Outstanding commitment to their Network & EDI.
- Ability to demonstrate at least one achievement as a Network Lead.
- Excellent attendance at USVC's and Forums.
- Ability to demonstrate initiative taken to solve student issues.
- Has organised/facilitated meetings with their members.
- Has a good relationship with network members and interacts/consults with them.
- Has attended at least one meeting with an officer and/or Student Voice team.

STUDENT STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award category will be awarded to any Keele SU Student Staff member based on one or more of the following criteria;

- Has shown dedication and commitment to their role within Keele SU
- Has exceeded the expectations of the role and deliver high quality work; that has positively impacted the work of Keele SU.
- Has strongly demonstrated our organisational values and behaviours



EVENT OF THE YEAR

This award celebrates a standout event that has brought students together, created an unforgettable experience, and made a meaningful contribution to life at Keele. The winning event will have demonstrated excellent planning, creativity, and impact – whether through community building, cultural celebration, fundraising, awareness-raising, or simply delivering something truly memorable for students.

