



UNIVERSITY of CANTERBURY  
**STUDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION**

## **UCSA Student Choice Awards - Celebrating UC Staff**

### **Background**

Since 1995, the University of Canterbury Students Association (UCSA) Student Choice Awards (formerly Staff of the Year Awards [SOTY]) have given students the opportunity to nominate staff members who have gone above and beyond and made a real difference to their university experience. This encompasses lecturers, supervisors, administrators, and other non-academic staff members on the University of Canterbury (UC) campus.

Too often there is little recognition for such dedicated and committed individuals and the Student Choice Awards offers a focussed opportunity to celebrate in a fun way.

# 1. Student Choice Awards Overview

These standards provide a guide to the Student Choice Awards Committee, Students and staff as to the level of achievement required for recognition.

## Section A: Eligibility

To be eligible for a UCSA Student Choice Award, UC Staff must;

- Be a staff member for at least 1 full semester in the year that the award is presented prior to being nominated.

## Section B: Composition of the Student Choice Awards committee

1. The UCSA Student Choice Awards Committee shall comprise of;

- An Events Coordinator of the UCSA
- A least one representative(s) from the UCSA Advocacy and Welfare Team
- The UCSA President or delegate
- At least one other representative from the UCSA Executive
- At least one other UC Student who is not currently on the Executive

2. The Committee is to follow the associated rules and regulations:

- The committee is to include people from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- Should a vacancy occur on the committee by resignation or otherwise, the Executive shall appoint a suitable person from the appropriate category to fill such a vacancy. Appointment will be based upon a “best person for the role” philosophy.
- The Events Coordinator shall be Chair of the Student Choice Awards Committee.
- Quorum shall be five members of whom at least the Events Coordinator, and one UC Student are present
- Members of the Committee shall declare any conflicts of interest, relative to the nominees nominated for each award
- The deliberations shall be in committee. No others shall be present while nominations are being considered, and the release of the minutes of the deliberation (or any part thereof) is at the discretion of the Committee.

3. The functions of the Student Choice Awards Committee shall be:
1. To consider and vote upon each nominee submitted to it.
    - a. Committee members must read through the relevant material in preparation for the meeting. Should they be unable to attend they may provide feedback via email.
    - b. All Committee members to consult the standards set down when reaching their decisions.
    - c. The Committee will select a shortlist for each of the major categories, then decide the winner.
    - d. No additional nominations will be considered at the Committee meeting

The Committee shall meet once annually within 14 days of the date of close of nominations.

### **Section C: Nominations to the Student Choice Awards Committee**

1. Nominations must be made on the prescribed form with all sections completed.
2. Nominations must be made before or on the close of nominations date. Nominations made after such date will not be considered by the Student Choice Awards committee.

### **Section D: General**

1. Records shall be kept by the University of Canterbury Students' Association. A record of the name of the recipient and the category in which the award is made shall be entered.
2. In the case of any contingencies arising that are not provided for in these regulations the Student Choice Awards Committee shall have full power to decide until such time as the regulations may be amended to cover such contingencies.
3. Should any person who has been presented a Student Choice Award commit an act, which may bring discredit to the University, or the University of Canterbury Students' Association, or belittle the honour of the Award, the Student Choice Awards Committee may revoke the award

## 2. College Lecturer Awards

Awards will be presented for each of the following colleges:

- a) College of Arts
- b) College of Business and Law
- c) College of Education, Health and Human Development
- d) College of Engineering
- e) College of Science

Students will be asked to consider:

- Who brings your subject to life?
- Whose teaching always makes you want to learn more?
- Who listens when you need to ask that 'obvious' question?
- Who makes you feel valued as a learner?
- Who integrates/focus on ensuring equity and diversity into their teaching/work as a whole?
- Who gave you that really helpful feedback that helped you to move on?
- Who helps to keep your project or dissertation on track?
- Who supported your academic progress?
- Who motivated you to continue studying?

The Committee will take into consideration the number of votes received by each lecturer, relative to the overall number of students they teach

All College Lecturer Award winners will be considered for the overall Lecturer of the Year Award.

### **3. Support Staff Awards**

#### **Postgraduate Supervisor of the Year Award**

The Postgraduate Supervisor of the Year Award is presented to the staff member who:

- Has demonstrated exceptional ability to mentor, guide and support postgraduate students
- Is reliable, an awesome communicator and super helpful
- Has extensive knowledge and mastery of the subject matter

#### **Administrator of the Year Award**

The Administrator of the Year Award recognised a staff member who is:

- Super organised and knows everything (but seriously!)
- Goes above and beyond to encourage, help and support students in the department

#### **Technical Staff Member of the Year Award**

The Technical Staff Member of the Year Award recognises staff members who:

- Have super technical knowledge
- Goes above and beyond to help, and support students

Nominees may be Laboratory Technicians, Technical Officers, IT Staff etc.

Basically, any non-academic UC Staff who deals with Technical Staff

#### **Support Services Staff Member of the Year Award**

The Support Services Staff Member of the Year Award recognises staff from service units, including Te Waka Pākākano, Equity and Disability Service, Academic Skills, Library, Rec Centre, Health Centre, Student Care Team, UC Chaplaincy, who go above and beyond to help, and support students

The committee encourages nominees to share how the staff member went above and beyond to support them!

## **4. Special Awards**

### **Superstar Award**

The Superstar Award is awarded to a staff member who is super supportive and helpful, and goes above and beyond to make university an awesome place for students

Nominees may be student advisors, course advisors, learning advisors, cleaners, security staff or any staff on UC campus who you think is a Superstar!

### **Great Character Award**

The Great Character Award is presented to a staff member that:

- Has a strongly interesting or.... unusual personality
- Fantastic and outstanding human being

Essentially, someone who you would describe to a mate as "they're a character!"

### **The Wellbeing Champion Award**

Support for positive wellbeing is critical to learner experience at UC. This award celebrates teaching practices that go above and beyond to enhance learner wellbeing. We encourage nominations to include an anecdote, sharing evidence of those practices.

## **5. Make Your Own Awards**

For your enjoyment, each year we offer students the chance to “make your own award”. You name the award, and you nominate the staff member. We will honour the best (maybe worst) make your own awards on the night, and even invite you to the ceremony to present it.