



The Chancellor's Awards 2026 criteria and guidance

The Chancellor's Awards were first awarded in 2003 and are one of the most important ways in which the University recognises the exceptional contribution of individual members of staff to our success.

About the Chancellor's Awards

The University wishes to **recognise four current members of the University community** who have, in the last five years, made an outstanding contribution to teaching, research or to the University's work in general.

Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution

The University seeks to honour a colleague who might be from any staff group (academic, professional services, technical or other, including in those in our subsidiary companies) whose outstanding contribution has delivered exceptional service and/or impact in supporting and serving the University community and mission, and consistently demonstrated the University's Values set out in the University's Strategy 2030, or who has made a demonstrable contribution to society - globally or locally.

Chancellor's Award for Research

The University seeks to honour a colleague who has enhanced the research reputation of the University through a particularly significant, world-leading contribution to the progress of research in the last 5 years, and/or whose outstanding research has made a demonstrable impact and contribution to society, globally or locally outside direct academic recognition.

Chancellor's Award for Teaching

The University seeks to honour a colleague who has recently enhanced the teaching reputation of the University, through a significant contribution to improving or invigorating student learning at any level.

Rising Star Award

The University seeks to honour an early career colleague, including postdoc fellowship holders, appointed to the University in the last five years, who has not previously worked for more than five years in a similar broad discipline, and who has in this time made a significant contribution in either teaching or research as described above.

Successful nominees *must* make themselves available for the Chancellor's Award dinner, where the awards will be publicly announced. The dinner usually takes place in the autumn/winter but may be subject to alternative arrangements. Successful nominees will usually be contacted in the summer once the ceremony date has been confirmed. The University of Edinburgh reserves the right to withdraw the award at any point.

Who can nominate?

- Any current member of the University community may nominate for any of the awards.
- Previous nominations may be resubmitted.
- Self-nominations are not accepted.

How to nominate

Please use the nomination form downloadable as a Word document from this webpage:
<https://principals-office.ed.ac.uk/the-chancellors-awards/chancellors-award-nomination-form>

Submit your nomination form to the nominee's Head of School or Professional Services Directorate/Departmental Lead. They will decide who to recommend to their respective Head of College or Professional Services Group. Heads of Colleges and Professional Services Groups will decide who to recommend and rank the nominations before sending them via Nicola Helliwell to the Principal who will choose the winner and recommend them to the Chancellor.

If you have any questions, please email Nicola.Helliwell@ed.ac.uk in the first instance.

Deadline dates are noted on page 3.

Nomination information required

The information required to nominate depends on the award sought:

Award for Outstanding Contribution

- A brief statement that sets out how the candidate has demonstrated exceptional support for the University's mission and has consistently demonstrated the University's Values set out in the [University's Strategy 2030](#) (1-2 pages).

Please note: it is important to identify how the University and its strategic priorities substantially benefitted from this nominee's exceptional service.

For example, around the themes of discovery, education, people, equality and inclusion, international, knowledge exchange, outreach, professional experience/excellence, business. How has the nominee's service beneficially impacted the University over an extended period of time? Only impact that has occurred in the past 5 years will be considered.

Award for Research

- A brief statement that sets out the major contribution (1-2 pages).
- Please attach a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae, *limited to two pages*.

Please note: in principle just one piece of research work carried out in the last 5 years could be sufficient for a nomination, and only research that has been carried out while under the employment of the University will be considered.

Rising Star Award if in Research

- A brief statement that sets out the major contribution as set out in the criteria above (1-2 pages).
- Please attach a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae, *limited to two pages*.
- A note of the year of the nominee's appointment to the University.

Please note: in principle just one piece of research work could be sufficient for a nomination and only research that has been carried out while under the employment of the University will be considered.

Award for Teaching

- A brief statement that sets out the nominee's major contribution (1-2 pages).
- A copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae, *limited to two pages*.

Please note: nominees should currently be teaching at Edinburgh and have been teaching here for a minimum of two years.

Rising Star Award if in Teaching

- A brief statement that sets out the nominee's major contribution (1-2 pages).
- A copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae, *limited to two pages*.
- A note of the year of the nominee's appointment to the University.

Please note: nominees should currently be teaching at Edinburgh and have been teaching here for a minimum of two years.

Deadline for Nominations

1. Nominations from staff to be received by the nominee's Head of School / Directorate / Departmental Lead by Friday 22 May 2026.
2. Ranked nominations from Heads of School / Directorate / Departmental Lead to be received by Heads of College / Professional Services Group by Friday 29 May 2026.
3. Final ranked nominations from Heads of College / Professional Services Group to be received by Nicola Helliwell by Friday 12 June 2026 by email to Nicola.Helliwell@ed.ac.uk - please use "Chancellor's Awards 2026" in the subject header.

Selection process

Note: The Selection process relies on the nomination form being an accurate and complete description of the reasons why an award should be bestowed.

The University of Edinburgh reserves the right to withdraw the award at any point.

- Nominations are submitted to the nominee's Head of School or Professional Services Lead who must approve all nominations in the first instance before sending for approval in ranked order to their Head of College or Professional Services Group.
- Heads of Colleges should group nominations according to the category of award sought and rank nominations in order of preference –*indicating clearly the top two choices* for each Award.
- Heads of Professional Services Groups may submit a maximum of two nominations in rank order.
- Once grouped and ranked, nominations can be submitted to the Principal (via Nicola Helliwell in the Principal's Office) who will choose the winner and recommend them to the Chancellor.

It is intended that one award in each category (Teaching, Research, Outstanding Contribution, and Rising Star) will be made although this is subject to variation depending on the nominations received.

Successful nominees *must* make themselves available for the Chancellor's Award dinner to receive their award, this usually takes place in autumn but may be subject to alternative arrangements. Successful nominees will usually be contacted in the summer once the ceremony date has been confirmed.

There will be internal and external communication of the awards, which may involve Award winners in public speaking engagements.

Previous winners are listed on next page.

Previous Chancellor's Award Winners

2003

Professor Ian Deary – Research Award
Professor Peter Ghazal – Research Award

2005

Professor Jean Beggs – Research Award
Dr Jane Dawson – Teaching Award

2007

Professor David Leigh – Research Award
Professor Susan Rhind – Teaching Award
Professor Donald Bloxham – Rising Star Award

2009

Professors Harry Campbell and Malcolm Dunlop – joint winners Research Award
Dr John Lee – Teaching Award
Dr Giles Hardingham - Rising Star Award

2011

Professor Mark Bradley – Research Award
Professor Sue Welburn – Teaching Award
Dr Dominic Johnson – Rising Star Award

2013

Professor Agata Smoktunowicz - Research Award
Dr Helen Cameron - Teaching Award
Dr Catherine Heymans - Rising Star Award

2015

Professor Brian Walker – Research Award
Dr Angus Bancroft - Teaching Award
Dr Louise Horsfall – Rising Star Award

2017

Professor Polly Arnold - Research Award
Professor Charles Cockell and Professor Alison Koslowski - Teaching Award
Professor Devi Sridhar and Dr Mirko Canevaro – joint winners Rising Star Award
Professor Francisca Mutapi - Impact Award

2019

Professor Charles French-Constant – Research Award
Dr Alan Convery – Teaching Award
Dr Jennifer Culbertson – Rising Star Award
Professor Richard Mellanby – Impact Award

2021

Lyndsay Wilkie - Outstanding Contribution Award (former Impact Award)
Professor Aziz Sheik – Research Award
Professor Tim Stratford – Teaching Award
Dr. Dave O'Brien – Rising Star

2004

Professor David Porteous - Research Award
Professor Allan Cumming - Teaching Award

2006

Professor Donald Mackenzie – Research Award
Dr Simon Bates – Teaching Award
Professor Stuart West – Rising Star Award

2008

Professor Joanna Wardlaw – Research Award
Dr Sian Bayne – Teaching Award
Dr Polly Arnold – Rising Star Award

2010

Professor Peter Sandercock – Research Award
Professor O James Garden – Teaching Award
Dr Euan Brechin - Rising Star Award

2012

Professor Igor Rudan – Research Award
Professor Jamie Davies – Teaching Award
Dr Eve Hepburn – Rising Star Award

2014

Professor Margaret Frame and Professor Jo Shaw – joint winners Research Award
Dr Elizabeth Bomberg - Teaching Award
Dr Nicholas Mills - Rising Star Award

2016

Professor Andrew Rambaut – Research Award
Dr Jessie Paterson – Teaching Award
Dr Sam Spiegel – Rising Star Award
Professor Lesley McAra & Professor Susan McVie – joint winners Impact Award

2018

Professor Richard Morris - Research Award
Professor Pete Higgins and Professor Dave Reay – joint winners Teaching Award
Dr Beth Biller - Rising Star Award
Professor David FitzPatrick - Impact Award

2020

Professor Chris Speed – Research Award
Dr Ruth McQuillan – Teaching Award
Dr Ewa Luger and Dr Davide Michieletto – joint winners Rising Star Award
Professor Michael Eddleston - Impact

2022

Dr Lisa Kendall - Outstanding Contribution Award
Professor Kenneth Baillie - Research Award
Dr Georgia Cole - Rising Star Award
Dr Ross Galloway - Teaching Award

2023

Dr Lorraine Kerr - Outstanding Contribution Award
Professor Guy Lloyd-Jones - Research Award
Dr Deval Desai - Rising Star Award
Dr Jeni Harden - Teaching Award

2024

Mr. Nial Moffat - Outstanding Contribution Award
Professor Shannon Vallor - Research Award
Dr Katherine Atkins - Rising Star Award
Professor Meryl Kenny - Teaching Award

2025

Professor Michael Shipton - Outstanding Contribution Award
Professor Stuart Forbes - Research Award
Dr Sally Shaw - Rising Star Award
Professor Judy Robertson - Teaching Award