



The Principal's Medals 2026 Criteria

The Principal's Medal was first awarded in 2008 and is one of the most important ways in which the University recognises professional services, academic colleagues or students who have made outstanding contributions to both the University and wider communities.

Criteria for the Principal's Medals

The University wishes to honour an individual or a named small team (not entire large departments), who have delivered exceptional service in supporting and serving the University or the wider community, and demonstrated strong alignment to the University's values: <https://strategy-2030.ed.ac.uk/>.

There will be a maximum of 5 awards made to individuals or teams in any normal year.

- Nominees can be an individual student or staff member from any staff group (academic, professional services, technical or other, including in those in our subsidiary companies), or a team*.
** If nominating a team please append a complete list of names to the form.*
- Nominated staff should have worked for the University during the 12 months since 1 June 2025 and nominated students must either be currently studying at the University or have graduated during the academic year 2025/26.

Please note: The University has a process for recognition of long service by members of staff and the Principal's Medal should not be seen as a way to recognise such service.

Who can nominate?

- Any current member of the University community may nominate for this award (as at 1 June 2026).
- Previous nominations may be re-nominated.
- Previous winners cannot be re-nominated within 5 years of their award.
- Self-nominations are not accepted.

How to nominate

Please use the online nomination form accessible from the Principal's Medals webpages: [Principal's Medals nomination guidance and form](#). If you require the form in an alternative format, please contact Nicola.Helliwell@ed.ac.uk.

Please note: The nominee has the right to request this nomination form under data protection rules. Non-identifiable sections of this form could also be released to the public in response to a freedom of information request. Further guidance is available at: [Information Compliance Services web page](#)

Points to consider when drafting the nomination

University Values

- Achieve **excellence in all that we do**, always being principled, considerate and respectful.

- Undertake teaching and research that is **relevant to society**, ensuring we are diverse, inclusive and accessible to all.
- Be ambitious, bold and **act with integrity**, always being willing to listen.
- Foster a **welcoming community**, where staff, students, alumni and friends feel proud to be part of our University.
- Strengthen our deep-rooted and **distinctive internationalism**, attracting the world's best minds and building innovative global partnerships for research, teaching and impact.
- Sustain a deep allegiance and **commitment to the interests of the city and region** in which we are based, alongside our national and international efforts, ensuring relevance to all.
- Enable the University to be a place of transformation and of self-improvement, and driven to achieve **benefit for individuals, communities, societies** and our world.

Additional points to consider

- **Benefit** – How has the University, and its strategic priorities, or the wider community (for example: disadvantaged groups, local charities, public outreach, environmental projects) substantially benefitted from this nominee's service?
- **Participation** – How much does the nominee exceed expectations in actively participating, interacting, and collaborating with the campus community to provide exceptional service to the University, or in helping build relationships with communities?
- **Lasting Impact** – How has the nominee's service beneficially impacted the University or the wider community over an extended period of time?
- **Base of Operation** – How does the nominee's exceptional service relate to the expectations of their position?

Deadline for nominations and selection process

The nomination form should be submitted by email to Nicola.Helliwell@ed.ac.uk by **5pm on Friday 21 August 2026** - please use '*Principal's Medals 2026*' in the subject header.

The Principal will choose the winners and normally they are awarded their Medal during winter graduations, although that maybe subject to alternative arrangements.

Please note: The Principal 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.

Previous Winners

Previous winners and details of their achievements can be found at:

<https://principals-office.ed.ac.uk/the-principals-medals/principals-medal-winners>