

AWARDS

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT THE SU AWARDS



2021/22

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INTRODUCTION

What are SGSU Awards?

SGSU Awards are given in recognition for all the amazing things that happen within our SU. Whether done by a student, staff or society, they're a way of letting someone know that they've done exceptional work and deserve appreciation!

Who are awards for?

Awards are for any member of the Students' Union. This includes students, staff of the Union, University and Trust for the individual awards, and all societies, clubs and community projects. Some awards are specific to certain individuals - see below for the full list of awards, their eligibility and criteria.

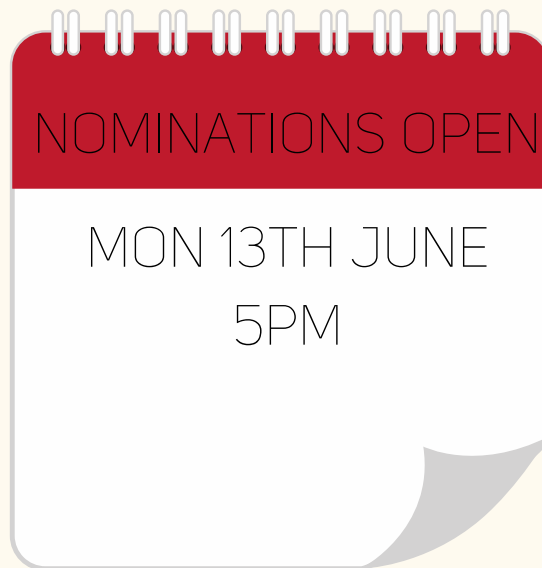
How can I nominate someone?

A nominations form is available on the website, and will be sent out via email to all students during the nominations window. Each nomination has a maximum word count of 650, and needs to contain enough information on the achievements of the nominee to meet the criteria set out in the Constitution for each award. More details on how to write a nomination, including examples from previous years and information on drop-in writing sessions, can be found below.

What happens if you win?

All winners will be invited to an awards ceremony via email on Tuesday 21st June to be presented with your award. Depending on the award given, this can include a certificate, a card giving free entry to all SU events for a year or more, a scarf and badge bearing the Students' Union's colours, a trophy or commemoration on our awards plaques in the SU bar.

KEY DATES



AWARDS AVAILABLE

Individual awards

These awards can be given to any member of the Students' Union - this includes students (both SGUL and Joint Faculty, past and present), staff of SGSU, SGUL or St George's Hospital.

- Silver Card
- Colours
- Gold Card
- Laurels
- Honorary Life Membership
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Performer of the Year

Club, Society and Community Project Awards

These awards can be given to clubs, societies and CPs of the Union. Some awards can be given to only one organisation, and some can be given to multiple - check below for the eligibility and more information.

- Sports Team of the Year
- Society of the Year
- Community Project of the Year
- Progress Award for Most Improved Society
- Outstanding Engagement Award

New Awards

If you feel that an award category is missing, and you would like to propose a new category, please write a nomination for that category with a supplementary paragraph on why you think a new award is needed.

Newly proposed categories will be considered before the start of the weekend. If a new award category is accepted, all other potential nominees (i.e. nominations that have been sent in for existing awards, but that could also be considered for the new award) will be considered as well. This is to make the process as fair as possible for all nominees.

AWARDS CRITERIA

The awards criteria are summarised below. For more info, check the Regulation for Awards in the Constitution, the SU website's awards page or email us.

Silver Card

- This award is granted to those in recognition of outstanding or consistently good commitment, contribution or excellence that is beyond the call of duty.
- This award grants the winners free access to all Student Union run events, with the exception of black tie events for one year.

Colours

- This award is the highest available for contribution to one area or aspect of University life.
- It is granted in recognition of outstanding commitment, contribution or excellence for a relatively long period of time. This is usually taken to mean at least one year.
- This award carries with it the right to wear the Students' Union Colours in the form of a scarf and badge, and a Silver Card.

Gold Card

- This award is the second highest that can be given to an individual for consistent excellence, outstanding commitment or contribution to more than one area of student life e.g. Clubs and Societies, the Union etc.
- It can be seen as a step below Laurels, for those who have maintained the above qualities for a substantial, but not unsurpassed, amount of time.
- This award grants the bearer free access to all Student Union events for life, with the exception of black tie events and performances/evenings organized privately.

Laurels

- This is the highest and most prestigious possible award a student can receive. Nominees must have demonstrated "unsurpassed excellence", "unfailing commitment" and/or "distinguished service" in a particular area over their time at Uni.
- This award comes with a Gold Card, commemoration on the Laureates Honours Board in the Students' Union Bar, the award of a Colours Scarf and Badge and a Citation.

Performer of the Year

- This is given for outstanding performance, excellence and contribution to the performing arts at St. George's over the academic year. Anyone who has participated in a performance at St. George's over the academic year, is eligible for nomination.

Volunteer of the Year

- This is given for outstanding performance, commitment and contribution to a particular community project (s) at St. George's over the academic year by an individual. Any student volunteer is eligible for nomination.

Sportsperson of the Year

- This honour is given for outstanding performance, commitment and contribution to a particular sport or sports at St. George's over the sporting year by an individual. Any sports player at St. George's is eligible for nomination.

Sports Team of the Year

- This for consistent/excellent performance, commitment and team spirit and dedication over the sporting year as a team. Any sports team is eligible for nomination.

Society of the Year

- This is given for a excellent contribution to student experience and enhancement of the Students' Union over the academic year, exhibiting commitment, organisation and dedication. Any society, without club or community project status is eligible.

Community Project of the Year

- This is given for consistent commitment, organisation and dedication over the academic year to their specific cause as a group. Any community project is eligible.

Progress Award

- This is given to the society that has made the most progress in increasing their contribution to the student experience from the previous year and is available to both old and new societies.

Outstanding Engagement Award

- This is a relatively new award for societies who show exceptional commitment and contribution to the engagement of individuals outside their society (i.e. campus-wide or external events).

HOW TO NOMINATE

You should have been sent an email with the nominations pack. Alternatively, you can go to the SU website (<https://www.sgsu.org.uk/get-involved/suawards/>) where the pack can be found. To be nominated you must have two people nominate you (a proposer and a seconder) whose details need to be given in the pack

In the pack are some brief instructions and a box for details, including your name, the seconder's name, the name of the nominee, their course and year of study and the award for which they are being proposed. There is then a space in which you can write the proposal. *Nominations will open on Monday 13th June at 5pm and close Sunday 19th June at 5pm.* The proposal can either be sent to vpactivities@su.sgul.ac.uk or President@su.sgul.ac.uk

In the proposal you must explain what the nominee has done to meet the criteria for the award, including how they have gone above and beyond the standard expected in the role they're in. Try to rely on facts and report the actions of the individual without using too much emotive language. The proposal itself must ***not be more than 650 words*** for all awards and must contain all information that you feel qualifies the individual for the award, as no information that is not in the proposal itself may be considered when deciding the award. The proposal will have all the identifying information removed whilst it is being considered so as to avoid bias.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Awards committee, made up of the SU Executive and nominated parties, is where the nominations are considered and the award recipients are decided. It's here that we consider all the information in the application, compare it to the criteria in the constitution and make a decision on whether or not to accept the nomination.

In the interest of reducing bias, each nomination will be anonymised and any member of the awards committee with ties to the nominee will also be asked to leave during deliberation and voting.

Nominations may be moved up or down at the discretion of the committee. The nomination will first be considered for the award it was proposed for, however if the committee feels that it may be eligible for another award (this could be a higher award if a strong application, a lower award if it does not pass in its proposed award, or another individual award e.g. Performer of the Year if eligible) then we will consider it for both.

EXAMPLE NOMINATIONS

Silver Card: *[Name] is quite simply the heart and soul of the Firebirds cheerleading squad. She been an outstanding Captain and has lead our team through one of our toughest and most successful years; she has also shown unrelenting commitment as a team member both in and out of training.*

[Name] started the year with big ambitions. Not only did she set out to take the team to two competitions but also to step up from a level 1 routine (the lowest level in cheerleading) to a level 2 routine. This in itself created a whole new range of challenges. It involved the choreography of a brand new routine jam packed with stunts, dancing, and tumblers to try and max out our points on the competition floor. Countless hours were spent carefully crafting stunt groups that would work well together, formations that would transition easily, and dance that was full of energy.

On top of this [Name] would run our training sessions attempting to teach a group of 26 excitable cheerleaders where they needed to stand and what happened on which count. A tedious but essential task which she grasped with both hands. Many people said it couldn't be done and that we should give up whilst we were ahead, but [name] was determined and pushed on. Her determination paid off when we were crowned division champion at our first competition of the year. She helped the firebirds go from a small level one team to a major competitive player on the level two field.

When several members of our team succumbed to injury, she took it in her stride and set out to fix the problem in a way that would affect as few members of the squad as possible. She would stay after training to help teach new recruits the routine when they were roped in two weeks before competition. On top of this she would help stunt groups in her free time when they trained outside of practice, giving them advice to help their stunts hit. She would also immerse herself in the behind the scenes work that keeps the squad ticking along, arranging coaching sessions and organising all the preparations associated with competition day, she was even involved with the creation of our routine music.

[Name] not only throws herself into the sporting and admin side of cheerleading, she also gets involved with the social side too! She has attended every single one of our weekly socials, showing a real commitment to more than just the sporting aspect of cheerleading. She has helped people in the cheer squad in their studies offering them notes and explanations for any aspects of the course they find difficult.

Aside from being an incredible captain she is also a fantastic cheerleader. She always gives it her all when it comes to performing, trying her very best to keep the stunts in the air whilst keeping a smile on her face. No matter how many times she is dropped she is always willing to get back in the air and try again. She listens to any feedback she receives and takes it on board as she strives to do her best in everything she does. [Name] has been a committed member of the squad from the beginning, dedicating three years to the team and competing every single year! Last year she was also involved in committee as the treasurer for the squad doing an excellent job of keeping the team's finances in check.

[Name] couldn't possibly give anymore of herself to the Firebirds and I would like to give her this award to show her efforts truly haven't gone unnoticed or unappreciated. She is the cheerleader we should all aspire to be and will be greatly missed when she graduates and embarks on the next stage of her journey.

The nomination above was awarded a silver card as it clearly demonstrated that this person had shown consistently good achievement within their sport, and that as captain they had shown commitment going beyond the call of duty (that is, more than could be reasonably expected from a captain of a club), and the club had reached a new level of achievement as a result..

Colours: I believe that [Name] is very deserving of Colours, because of his numerous contributions to Dance at George's. [Name] has everything you would want from a colours nominee, having spent the past three years of his university career sweating blood and tears on the rehearsal stages of Henry Gray, and the performance stages of Monckton/the Bar. He comes with an exceptional story.

[Name] had never danced, nor performed in any capacity before coming to University. Over these three years, he's developed himself into an amazing dancer, and one of George's Premier choreographers. He's now been selected to dance in every dance show at George's, in every style available, over the past three years – and has been regarded by many of his peers as a dedicated, motivated and enthusiastic individual.

His first taste of performance came from Fashion Show auditions in first year. He was successful, and his potential was recognised, landing him in 5 different dances, and his potential was recognised, landing him in 5 different dances. This experience would be challenging for most – but [Name] took the steep learning curve as an opportunity to improve himself. After enjoyable performances on all 5 dances, he decided to audition for Tooting Show. He was selected to perform in 5 further dances, of completely new styles. [Name] displayed his commitment and passion for dance, by staying behind and completing late night rehearsals, individually working on his multiple routines and giving 110% at every rehearsal. The fact that [Name] was even selected to perform in 10 dances, of completely different styles, as a first year who had no previous experience is itself worthy of recognition. Not only did he complete this feat, he did it so well that he was awarded 'Best Dancer' for Tooting Show, out of the 40 dancers. But the story doesn't end here.

In his second year, [Name] tried his hand at choreographing for Fashion Show, after his previous 10 performances in first year clearly marked him as a great candidate. He picked this up extremely quickly, and took the extra time commitment for the role with natural ease. Fashion Show is arguably the most demanding dance show at St George's, and to become a choreo is a feat within itself. I believe he chose to take up this role as it allowed him to give back to the university that taught him so much, and pass down his skill. Not only did he choreo a successful dance, but also performed in 4 more dances himself.

In his third year and final year, [Name] did the nigh-on impossible. A feat that only the most dedicated can hold to their name. [Name] performed in the big three dance shows - Diwali Show, Fashion Show and Tooting Show. A combined time commitment of 12 weeks of rehearsals – in a year which only lasts for 24 weeks of teaching. Further to this, in his final performance at Fashion Show, he was selected to be the main protagonist, and perform in a further 4 dances. In the most stressful year of his degree – he still continued to raise the bar in every dance he has ever participated in. His motivation energy and drive, improves the people around him, resulting not only in his amazing performances, but also the performances and experiences of the people around him.

"[Name] is incredible! His raw talent at dance is equally matched by his hilarious humour and the amount of effort he puts into nailing his routines. He worked so hard to make our vision come alive"

- Kenechi Bibian Anibueze, Fashion Show Director 2017.

Over three years of dedication, [Name] has grown himself into a stellar performer, who can tackle almost any style of dance and gives back to the community which moulded him at every opportunity. [Name] clearly deserves to be recognised and awarded for his continued commitment to Dance at St George's.

This nomination received Colours as it clearly shows a commitment to dance that spans multiple years. It demonstrates outstanding commitment and contribution, and details exactly why the achievements listed are noteworthy.

Gold Card: *I believe [Name] is very deserving of the Gold Award, because of his contribution to a variety of areas in university. He represents what can be perceived as the ideal George's Student; humble, responsible and genuinely cares about the welfare of the student body.*

Being elected as Y1 BSC rep, Representation Officer, and Community Project Officer speaks volumes about him. Having been on exec for two years straight, [Name] is always there for his peers along with working hard to excel in his job; receiving Exec of the Month as both Representation and CPO. As CPO he has introduced the volunteer of the month award, v.Inspired opportunities and an alternate funding list. All of which have been revolutionary to the CPO role and its interaction with the CPs.

Speaking on behalf of RAG officers, he has often provided us with advice or encouragement inspiring us to be better at what we do. At times, [Name] has gone out of his way to assist us, despite his other obvious commitments. For example, during Jailbreak, he not only taught us the ins-and-outs of the Jailbreak process but also read-through constant updates of the jailbreak handbook, helped organize/speak up on our briefings and suggested how we pack participant bags. Whatever event he may be present in; we all have noticed how [Name] never sits still. He's either helping setting up, encouraging students to attend and support the SU or taking part in the event to support the cause (like Take Me Out).

As CPO, [Name] brings to it experience of how a CP is run well through his role as chair of LINKS. As Chair, [Name] has grown the Society by 120 members, 51 Event First Aiders, and 2600 total duty hours – making it larger and more active than any other LINKS unit in London. He has trained an estimated 500 students in life saving first aid, throughout his 3 years as part of the society. [Name] gives the same amount of commitment and sincerity to other CPs as well, thus ensuring they run smoothly. For example, during SKIP show, [Name] has not only been kind enough to host but also organize ticket production and even offer up revision sessions with him as an auction prize. This again proves how much he's willing to go above and beyond in any cause he takes up.

Aside from his contributions as Exec and a role model to all that is George's, [Name] has also led a number of societies exceptionally well. He has been president of GameSoc (2014-16), and FATsoc (2015). Most importantly, [Name] has to be one of the most genuine student mentors out there. Anshaal Chawdhery, describes him as a "sincere combination of dedicated, emphatic and extremely helpful. [Name] pushes everyone to work towards their absolute best because he tends to find the good in each one of them."

His constant belief in my abilities is why he is one of the people I owe my Fundraiser of the Year award at SKIP too, in my first year of joining SKIP. He provides positive and constructive feedback to all cohorts in BMS, and generally is always there to help us understand topics. He's regularly given ISOC lectures and always provides us with good study techniques to be successful in university. This is demonstrated via him organizing the Medicine Transfer Talk, and speaking on his module choices for third year so second years have an idea on what to take.

Not only is [Name] a great mentor or someone to look up to, but exhibits the same amount of warmth to anyone, friend or acquaintance who would go to him for advice. He deserves the Gold award not only because of his commitment to the SU or the societies, but rather to the people at George's. I truly, truly aspire to be like him in the future.

This nomination received a Gold Card for showing consistent excellence and contribution to more than one area of student life for a substantial period of time. The areas described in the nomination include contributions to the SU Executive and to CPs., as well as to student mentoring.

A Gold Card needs to demonstrate multiples areas and multiple years of commitment, which this nomination does; the nomination can suggest the areas that the committee should consider for the award (e.g. contributions to the SU, to societies, to sports, to welfare etc) however the committee decides on the final areas to be considered. All achievements listed will be considered, both in individual areas of student life and as a overall picture of a nominee.

Laurels: *I am writing this evidence as support for my nomination of [Name] for SGSU Laurels. Throughout her 6 years at St George's [Name] has immersed herself in every opportunity that the student's union has to offer, each time going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure a society's or events success. It stands out to many the manner in which [Name] is able to effortlessly juggle a plethora of responsibilities alongside her studies.*

For the last 6 years [Name] has been an integral member of the netball club. She is not only an enthusiastic and dedicated player sharing many successes with her teams over the years, including league victory in 2016, but also an indispensable asset to the club off the court! [Name] is always the first to volunteer to help at events, and has sacrificed much of her own time to run extra training sessions for less experienced players. During her time at the club she has taken on many roles such as vice captain, treasurer and in her final year, club president, each time going above and beyond to ensure the club's success. She tirelessly campaigns to source the club extra funding and has helped to pioneer the new Recreational Team, fuelled by a passion to get even more women at SGUL involved in netball! [Name] also helped to found a 'sports buddy' system, providing advice and support to those wanting to get into fitness.

As well as sports, [Name] has shown unfaltering dedication to the arts. She has been in tooting show, and also taken an active role in the musical society committee for a number of years, as well as performing and choreographing. She has participated in fashion show for 6 years and worked as a choreographer for 5 of those. In her 5th year she was elected as fashion show society president and director. [Name]'s hard work resulted in the show being the best attended fashion show ever, even winning a National Student's Award prize for the 'Best led student event', an incredible feat for such a small university! Thanks to [Name] hard work the show raised thousands of pounds for leukaemia and lymphoma research.

[Name] is also extremely committed to academia. She has been a member of the surgical and paediatric societies since her third year, holding committee positions in both with roles including treasurer and, PR and media manager. She pioneered the 'buddy' system in the paediatric society in which students volunteer to spend time with long term paediatric patients. [Name] acts as the St George's ambassador for the British University Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, of which she is the President. Through this she brings many exciting O&G opportunities to SGUL as well as representing our university on a national stage. She remains in this capacity for a further year after graduation.

[Name] is enthusiastic about helping younger students achieve academic success, offering teaching and advice whenever she can. She has worked as an anatomy demonstrator and has helped organise and run mock OSCE and revision sessions for the netball club. Her friendly and approachable attitude makes her adept at this.

[Section removed]

This story, known by few outside of [Consultant]'s team, sums up [Name] as a person. She is a truly kind, caring and compassionate lady, extraordinarily dedicated in her role as a student, as a member of SGUL, but most importantly someone who will make an extraordinary doctor, providing the most compassionate care that the NHS needs.

This application was awarded Laurels for showing unfailing commitment over a significant number of years to a wide range of student life. It shows that, through commitment to sports, to performance and to academia within the Union, this person has left a lasting impact on the Union and its members.

A Laurels application has to show distinguished service in an area, and overall should show unsurpassed excellence in commitment and dedication. This can be seen here in the awards and distinctions received. Laurels are about both quantity and quality; they are sometimes referred to as needing the 'wow' factor of the person's achievements - the nomination needs to show true dedication to the Union's activities and to student life.

(The approx. 60 word section removed above contained personal details of the person's experiences through their Paediatric Society buddy system - for all applications, examples and anecdotes can help add some character and support the information in the nomination however they should be used sparingly, as nominations cannot be considered on anecdotes alone; there must be enough information present to demonstrate the award's potential).

USEFUL CONTACTS

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vpactivities@su.sgul.ac.uk

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Good luck!

