

# ucisa Awards 2025

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# About the UCISA Awards



The UCISA Awards recognise, celebrate and promote the outstanding achievements and innovation of staff working in or supporting technology in UCISA member organisations, and the application of digital solutions which positively transform the experience of students, academics and professional staff.

There are 7 categories in the UCISA awards, individual and group submissions are invited.

**Applications for the UCISA Awards 2025 will close at 17:00 on 16 December 2024.**

The 7 categories are:

- CIO / IT Director of the Year
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Outstanding Corporate Member
- Rising Star Award
- Sustainable Digital Project or Initiative
- Supporting Excellence in Learning, Teaching and Research
- Transformation

More information on each award can be found on the [Award Categories](#) page.

Finalists are recognised and category recipients announced at the annual UCISA Leadership Conference.

# Award Categories

## CIO / IT Director of the Year

The UCISA CIO/Director of the Year Award celebrates outstanding contribution by an exemplary digital leader who demonstrates vision, innovation, transformation and professional excellence. This individual will be a role model not only within their institution but throughout the wider UCISA community.

## Diversity and Inclusion Award

The Diversity and Inclusion Awards seeks to recognise institutions that can demonstrate a holistic and long-term commitment to diversity and inclusion within your culture. You must be able to highlight your strategy and how it has had a positive impact and is represented through all levels of your organisation and have championed actions to remove barriers and improve the working experience and engagement.

## Outstanding Corporate Member

The UCISA Award for the Outstanding Corporate Member recognises a business that has worked in partnership, delivering exceptional services that have positively impacted an institution or the sector.

## Rising Star Award

The UCISA Rising Star Award seeks to recognise an emerging leader in digital technology. Demonstrating ongoing technical and creative expertise as well as growth in responsibility and leadership.

## Sustainable Digital Project or Initiative

The UCISA Award for Sustainable Digital Project or Initiative celebrates an innovative activity that not only provides exceptional value to the institution but demonstrates a positive environmental sustainability impact for the future.

## Supporting Excellence in Learning, Teaching and Research

The UCISA Award for Supporting Excellence in Learning, Teaching and Research recognises digital innovations which have had a transformative effect on learning, teaching and research activities. Demonstrating the application of innovation in support of how academics research, teach and students learn.

## Transformation Award

The UCISA Transformation Award celebrates groundbreaking digital innovation that has transformed and delivered for the institution and beyond. Contributing to improved processes, better student and staff experiences, management of risk and control of costs. Enabling your institution to make exceptional progress in daily activities.

# Entry conditions

## Conditions of entry - General

Applications are open to all current UCISA institutional member organisation/staff working in or supporting technology.

The UCISA Awards are open to institutional members only (except for the Outstanding Corporate Member award)

For the UCISA2025 awards, the majority of the activity on which the submission is based must have been performed between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

The individual leading the activity/initiative must be from a recognised team and a current employee of a UCISA member organisation during the calendar year subject to the awards.

Collaborative entries between institutions are welcomed, however a lead institution must be identified and make the submission.

Applicants must meet eligibility criteria.

You may make a submission as an individual or on behalf of a team. You may also nominate other individuals or teams.

A UCISA Award entry form needs to be completed and as part of the submission process.

The initiative or activity may be entered in one Award Category only (although a CIO/Director of the Year Rising Star nominee may also be part of a team nomination)

The summary statement must not exceed more than 12,000 characters (including spaces).

The award entry will need to be endorsed by the organisation's senior IT leader or signed for on their behalf.

All applications must be submitted via the [online form](#) by 17:00, Monday 16 December 2024.

UCISA may request a project demonstration webinar to the sector with any category nominees. This session may be recorded.

All finalists may be requested to attend an interview with a UCISA representative, prior to the announcement of each award recipient. This session may be recorded.

All finalists may be asked to give a speech at the Awards dinner, taking place at the UCISA25 Leadership Conference between 18 - 20 March 2025.

Shortlisted applicants will be asked to film a short video, no longer than 2 minute, about their project which will be shared with the UCISA community.

You acknowledge that photographers may attend UCISA events, and the images of participants may be used on the UCISA website or within event marketing material. If you do not wish to be photographed, please advise the photographer at the time.

# Entry conditions

## Conditions of entry – CIO / IT Director of the Year

Nominees must be nominated by a colleague at their institution. Self-nomination is not accepted for this award.

The application should show evidence of specific leadership activities performed between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, however historical information should also be included to provide background.

Only one nomination will be accepted from each institution.

Nominees must be a CIO or equivalent IT lead at their institution.

## Conditions of entry – Outstanding Corporate Member

Nominations for the outstanding corporate member must come from a UCISA institutional or affiliate member.

Nominees must be a UCISA corporate member at the time of nomination.

Self-nomination is not accepted for this award.

## Conditions of entry – Rising Star

Nominees must be nominated by a colleague at their institution. Self-nomination is not accepted for this award.

# Criteria



## General Criteria applicable includes:

- **Supporting each other and inclusivity** in leading the development of digital innovation, capabilities and technologies to transform education and research.
- **Demonstrate quantifiable impact** – and doing it 'together' / across boundaries. This may be within your organisation, between institutions, with commercial partners or for the sector.
- **Stakeholder Engagement,** demonstrating change in attitudes, behaviors, values and outcomes. Measuring and reporting benefits achieved.

For more details on addressing each criteria for specific awards, please see the separate criteria documents

- **Demonstrate value** to institutional priorities and stakeholders. Institutional context/support; transformation, impact and return on investment achieved (realised or expected)
- **Delivered innovation, transformation or positive change** through groundbreaking digital technologies, services, or partnerships.
- **Sustainability and scalability** of activity that demonstrates positive environmental and financial impact for the long-term.
- **Model** that is motivating, inspiring or being adopted by others.
- Evidence of both **recent and past** activities and leadership

# How to enter



Applications for the 2025 UCISA Awards are now being accepted. Before you enter, here are some things to consider, to assist in preparing the application.

- Select the most relevant [Award category](#) for the activity /initiative
- Ensure the [conditions of entry/eligibility requirements](#) have been met
- Read through and make sure you understand the [selection criteria](#). The judging panel will use these criteria to determine eligibility and assess the application.

- Complete the [online nomination form](#)
- If you wish to submit any supporting documents to accompany your submission (or wish to submit your supporting statement in a different medium such as video), please email them to [ucisaoperations@ucisa.ac.uk](mailto:ucisaoperations@ucisa.ac.uk) **after submitting the online form**
- If you wish to make any amendments to your nomination form, you can do so up until the closing date by saving the editing link at the end of the form.

**Applications close 17:00 Monday  
16 December 2024**