



What are the Outstanding PLUS Awards?

Receive extra recognition and hone the articulation skills gained from your Bristol PLUS Award!

The Outstanding PLUS Awards (OPA) celebrate students who have gone above and beyond the Bristol PLUS Award requirements by making a significant change or impact in a role or activity.

There are 8 Award categories, and just one winner will be chosen for each category.

Winners will receive:

- An official certificate awarded in person at a celebration event in May
- A formal letter of congratulations from the Pro Vice Chancellor for Student Experience
- Recognition through our [website](#), [social media](#) and [University media channels](#)

The criteria

- You must have completed your Bristol PLUS Award this current academic year*
- Maximum one nomination per student
- You must nominate yourself using one of your Bristol PLUS Award Experience activities

* The OPA is designed for students to complete in the same year as their Bristol PLUS Award. For fairness, the OPA is not open to achievers from previous academic years.

Past PLUS Award Achievers wishing to repeat the Bristol PLUS Award a second time will not be considered for the OPA.

Instead, past Achievers are encouraged to explore other opportunities such as the [New Enterprise Competition](#), the [target jobs Undergraduate of the year Awards](#), or the [SU Awards](#).

How it works

1. Nominations

Eligible students can nominate themselves in one of the 8 categories detailed below, within the [Outstanding PLUS Awards nomination pathway](#). The pathway will be available upon completing your Bristol PLUS Award.

Nomination guidelines:

- Explain what you have done and why you should win this award, in no more than 500 words (consider the scoring criteria below before you get started)
- You will be asked to provide a photo with your nomination, for use in celebration and promotional materials (max file size 10MB)
- You may find the [Careers Service resources](#) helpful to prepare your nomination.

Application deadline: 12 noon Monday 25 March 2024

2. Judging

Nominations will be scored on:

- Your articulation of how your PLUS Award activity has met the brief for your category
- Your description of why your contribution was outstanding: how you went above and beyond the basic requirements of your role
- Nominations are individual, therefore you should focus on your personal input to the activity
- Where possible, provide evidence of demonstrable progress or success

Initial shortlisting will be done by the Bristol PLUS Award team and a winner in each category will be selected by a varied judging panel, including employability experts, alumni, and professionals from across the region.

3. Outcome

Winners will be announced at a celebration event in May 2024

Categories and briefs

To find out more about previous winners and nominees, [check out our OPA blog series.](#)

Better World

You will have contributed to tackling global challenges in a local or global context. These challenges, either large or small, could be linked to the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.](#)

We will be looking for:

- An explanation of the issue you were working to address or improve e.g., poverty, inequality, etc.
- Specific details of the work you did and how it contributed to making a better world in a big or small way!

Change Maker

You will have created positive change in your workplace or community to benefit people or the organisation.

We will be looking for:

- Evidence of the change, what was it like before and after?
- Specific details of how the change made a positive difference, solved a problem or improved a process.

Civic Superstar

You will have been a community hero in your neighbourhood and made a positive difference to the people you serve. These could be peers, customers or service users.

We will be looking for:

- An explanation of the community you worked with and how your role supported them.
- Specific details of the work you did and the impact it made.

Diverse Partnerships

You will have built relationships in your chosen role or activity and worked in partnership to reach a common goal.

We will be looking for:

- An explanation of the different groups or individuals and what different perspectives they represented.
- Specific details of the work you did to facilitate collaboration.

Everyday Hero

You will have demonstrated a strong work ethic, building transferable skills whilst consistently bringing energy and enthusiasm to your work.

We will be looking for:

- Evidence of a strong work ethic: mindfully and willingly bringing your best to your work, perhaps in roles unrelated to your future plans.
- Specific details of skills developed and how you inspired others with your positive work attitude and enthusiasm.

Innovation

You will have developed a new idea or a new way of working in response to a real-world problem.

We will be looking for:

- An explanation of your idea and why it was new. What needs it met or problems it looked to solve.
- Specific details of progress made towards implementing your idea.

Resilience

You will have demonstrated resilience in pursuing your PLUS Award activity. You will have persevered or adapted to challenges or obstacles.

We will be looking for:

- An explanation of the challenge or obstacle you faced while doing your PLUS Award activity, and how you responded to it.
- Specific details of the tools and techniques used to engage with the challenge, and what you learned about yourself in the process.

Wellbeing Champion

You will have worked to improve the wellbeing of your peers, or others in your wider community or workplace.

We will be looking for:

- Definition of the wellbeing issues and the groups that were affected.
- Specific details of how your work is improving the wellbeing of others and any evidence you have of this.

Still have questions?

If you have further questions about the Outstanding PLUS Awards, please email us at careers-plusaward@bristol.ac.uk.