



The Royal  
Anniversary  
Trust

CELEBRATING  
30 YEARS

# The Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Education



**“The Queen Elizabeth Prizes  
for Higher and Further  
Education are an integral  
part of our national honours  
system, shining a light on the  
groundbreaking work taking  
place in universities and  
colleges across the UK.”**



Sir Damon Buffini,  
Chair of the Royal Anniversary Trust

# The Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Higher and Further Education

## Recognising outstanding work in UK universities and colleges

The Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Education are open to eligible universities and colleges of higher and further education in the United Kingdom, and may be awarded for any topic or subject area which fulfils the criteria for the award: excellence, innovation and well-evidenced impact and benefit for the institution itself and the wider world.

These prestigious Prizes are part of the national honours system and are unique in recognising the institution as a whole rather than the work of individuals. Over the past 30 years, Prizes have been awarded across a wide range of disciplines – arts and humanities, business and the economy, education, health and medicine, engineering and manufacturing, environment and conservation, pure and applied science, and social sciences.

Prize entries are assessed in a rigorous, independent process of review managed by the Royal Anniversary Trust; this involves consultation with experts, specialists and professional organisations in the public and non-governmental sectors. A shortlist is considered by members of the Trust's expert panels and Awards Council before final recommendations are sent to the Prime Minister for advice, then presented to the Monarch for approval.

The Prizes were created with the support of their founding Patron Queen Elizabeth II and the Trust is grateful to Their Majesties The King and Queen for their continued patronage. The awards were previously known as the Queen's Anniversary Prizes.





## The Royal Anniversary Trust

Universities and colleges throughout the UK do outstanding work year after year. All of it has impact well beyond their doors – with benefits to local communities, education, the UK economy and the wider world. The Royal Anniversary Trust is an independent charity that celebrates and champions outstanding work in universities and colleges across the four nations of the United Kingdom. Through programmes including the Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Education and the Royal Challenges which convene the brightest academic minds to work on research projects addressing current critical issues, the Trust recognises excellence, innovation and the positive social impact of tertiary education in the UK and around the world.

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**“Since the award, the School of Environmental Sciences has seen a 40% increase in the number of students applying to study, and two substantial funding grants have been received in the School’s area of work.”**

Professor David Richardson,  
Vice-Chancellor, University of East Anglia

**“Receiving the Prize was a massive honour. The badge is the utmost benchmark of quality control that we could have. It’s given us strength and pride within the teaching team but equally it has been recognised across the UK and also internationally.”**

Gary Hunter, Vice Principal,  
Westminster Kingway College

# Eligibility and Criteria

The Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Education are open to higher and further education qualification-awarding bodies in the UK subject to external validation and assurance by the relevant recognised body.

The Trust refers to the following as quality assurance sources:

- The Department for Education (including Office for Students registration)
- The devolved administrations and where relevant, associated non-departmental public bodies (e.g. The Scottish Funding Council)

Further guidance on eligibility can be provided by the Trust on request. The final decision on eligibility to enter the Prizes remains at the discretion of the Royal Anniversary Trust.

Entries can be in any subject, field or discipline and must meet each of the Prize criteria:

- Quality and excellence
- Innovation and distinctiveness
- Impact and benefit to the university or college
- Impact and benefit to the wider world



# Shine a light on your best work — apply for the Queen Elizabeth Prizes for Education today.

Applications for Round 16 are open from  
30th October 2024 to 28th March 2025.

Ready to apply?



The Royal Anniversary Trust  
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