

Nomination Guidance: UCL East Engagement Awards

Deadline: 11 November

Awards celebration event: 4 December

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What are the Engagement Awards?

These awards celebrate staff, students, partners and projects that have exemplified mutually beneficial engagement between UCL and our east London communities.

At UCL East we want to award activity that:

- Focuses on **collaboration** between UCL and external partners.
- Involves diverse groups of people, particularly those who have been ignored or overlooked in traditional university work.
- Creates opportunities for **mutual benefit** both for UCL and for the external partner(s).
- Involves external partners in east London (Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets or Waltham Forest).

All awards are focused on mutually beneficial, reciprocal, engagement activity with people who live work or study in east London.

The UCL part of the collaboration can be based anywhere in UCL, not just UCL East, but the community involvement must be east London based.

Individual awards are for single members of UCL staff or student body. This could be professional services or academic staff.

Team or project awards must include named people from UCL and the east London community.

What awards are available?

- 1. Engagement Leader Award.**
- 2. Engagement Rising Star Award.**
- 3. Excellence in Co-creation Award.**
- 4. Amplifying Voices: Engaged Event or Exhibition Award.**
- 5. Outstanding Community Engaged Learning Award.**

1. Engagement Leader Award

This award is for a UCL individual who has shown leadership around engagement practice. They will have created a culture of engagement within their department or team. They will have empowered staff and/or students to be agents for change.

Examples of this could be:

- A researcher who has been exemplary in their own engaged work and has also shown a great commitment to assisting and encouraging other engaged projects within their lab/school.
- An individual who has created notable change in the culture of their department and can be credited with a notable increase in engagement projects.

2. Engagement Rising Star Award

This award is for a UCL individual who has demonstrated commitment to bringing to embed engagement in their research, teaching or learning practice.

Examples of this could be:

- A UCL East student who is showing great consistency and commitment to incorporating community engagement in their research.
- An early-career member of staff who is making commendable contributions to engaged projects either run through UCL East, or in east London.

3. Excellence in Co-creation Award

This award is for a team who have demonstrated excellence and innovation in the co-creation, development, and delivery of a collaborative project.

The team may have worked with creative or cultural practitioners in the project development and may have brought methods from other sectors into the project delivery. There will be real learning demonstrated by the project team and commitment to using these innovative methods in the future.

Examples of this could be:

- A team who have tried a new approach to working in collaboration, such as hosting citizen scientists within their team, which has led to innovative outcomes.
- A project that used arts-based methods to break down the barriers between the community, UCL and other partners.

4. Amplifying Voices: Engaged Event or Exhibition Award

This category awards projects where the outcome has been a public event or exhibition. The event or exhibition should be the result of a process of co-creation and collaboration between UCL staff or students and community partners and where opportunities have been provided to all those involved to develop skills and exchange knowledge. The exhibition or event will have been well suited to its audience resulted in positive outcomes for all collaborators.

Examples of this could be:

- An exhibition created collaboratively with local communities where the integration of community and UCL contributions is balanced and seamless.
- An event for knowledge or skills exchange with a community (such as a workshop) that has been outstanding in creating a balanced mutual benefit both for UCL East staff/students and local communities.
- A cocreated project that has resulted in bringing people into the university, research, or the arts in a way that has enabled and empowered both internal and external parties to broaden or deepen their practice, gain skills, knowledge, and reap the benefits.

5. Outstanding Community Engaged Learning Award

This award is for a module or project taught out of UCL East that focuses on teaching, curriculum, or students that involves community engagement. The application should clearly identify who has been responsible for leading the push for community engaged learning in this module or project, and this could be multiple people. The module or project should have enabled students to learn in an engaged way and promoted engagement within the curriculum.

Examples of this could be:

- A module taught out of UCL East that encourages students to use community engagement within their work and empowers them to complete this effectively.

What do you mean by Engagement at UCL East?

UCL uses the [definition](#) of engagement developed by the National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement:

“Public engagement describes the myriad of ways in which the activity and benefits of higher education and research can be shared with the public. Engagement is by definition a two-way process, involving interaction and listening, with the goal of generating mutual benefit.”

You may call the kind of work you do civic or community engagement – and we don’t mind. The most important thing for this definition is that engagement and collaboration between UCL and the community involves benefit for both UCL and the community.

Widening participation work with schools, or work that is intended to recruit students to UCL or higher education more generally, is not covered by these Awards.

What criteria do award winners need to meet?

Nominations will need to demonstrate the following about the project/team/individual:

1. They fit into the category specific criteria (see section on “what awards are available”).
2. The nominated work involves mutual beneficial collaboration between a UCL staff member or student, and an external, east London based partner or community.
 - a. It may be that multiple external people are involved, but the focus should be with people based in east London.
3. The staff or students involved must have had a contract of employment or active student status while participating the work.
4. The main external community involved should not be a ‘for profit’/Private Sector company.

The panel are interested to see applications from disciplines across UCL, and from projects working with communities who have historically been excluded from working with universities. They hope to award a spread of activity that represents different disciplines and communities.

How do I apply or nominate?

We welcome nominations from anyone. You may nominate yourself or someone else. Nominators may be UCL staff or students or external partners.

Please fill out [this simple form](#) by 11 Nov 2024.

The questions on the form are:

- Name, contact and information on the nominator.
- Name, contact and information on the individual nominated or all the people involved in the team or project.
- Name of project (of applicable)

- A summary of why you are nominating the person, project or team, giving detail on how they meet the criteria of the specific award, and why you think it deserves to win. Please include information on what was done, and what the impact was for UCL and the community/partners involved. (500 word limit)
- Borough location of the work.
- Any other information you would like to include.

What happens after the deadline?

1. Nominators will receive a confirmation after the deadline.
2. The nominations will be sent to the awards panel.
3. The panel will meet and decide on the winners for each category.
4. All nominators and nominated people will be invited to the awards ceremony on 4 December 2024 at UCL East.
5. The winners are announced on 4 December 2024.

Who decides on the award winners?

The panel has not yet been confirmed but will include:

- A member of the UCL East Cultural and Community Engagement Team
- A member of senior management at UCL East.
- A professional services leader in Public Engagement from UCL.
- An academic with a strong track record of good engagement practice.
- An external community member from east London with experience of collaborating with UCL East.