

## **Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2021 – Entry Guidelines**

### **Award Entry:**

The Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2021 (“Awards”) are open to all higher educational institutions who currently feature on Whatuni.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - 11:59pm. Entries submitted after this point will not be considered. The Awards are promoted and operated by IDP Connect Ltd (“IDPC”).

Institutions can submit an entry for each category of award but must submit a unique application for each category that fulfils the relevant criteria for that award.

Each award submission must contain as a minimum the following:

- answers to the category questions
- 1 logo of the applicant institution in a high-resolution JPEG format (or other format agreed with IDPC)
- 1 piece of visual evidence in support of your answers: either video or photos

plus, optionally

- any additional creative or reporting evidence, examples include: a campaign URL, campaign stills, videos of project outcomes, a status report etc.

Each award submission must relate only to current students studying for NQF level 5 programmes or higher at the applicant institution.

The [Awards Terms and Conditions](#) will govern all entries to and the operation of the Awards. All entries must be made on the basis that the application confirms the acceptance by the applicant institution of the Awards Terms and Conditions.

The applicant institution must have all necessary permissions and consents required to deliver all material included as part of the application and provide all personal information of individuals included within the application, to IDPC and to give to IDPC the rights to use the materials and personal information as set out in the Terms and Conditions.

### **Judging Panel**

The 2021 Whatuni Student Choice Awards will be judged by a specially chosen Whatuni student panel made up of prospective and current university students (“Judges”). The Judges will be selected by IDPC. The Judges will rate each eligible entry against the category criteria, and will select the top three, including a winner, in each category, being the institutions who in their discretion are most able to demonstrate or convey outstanding performance relative to their submission category.

### **Marking Criteria**

Each application will be marked against common marking criteria that will be set by IDPC and the Judges in advance of the assessments of entries.

## **The Category Questions**

The Categories:

### **1. Student Support**

Awarded to an institution which has developed comprehensive support programmes for its students during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Please answer the three questions below (Maximum 300 words per question)**

- (A) Please provide an outline of the objectives of the support programme/s your institution offered students during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- (B) Please outline details of the support programme/s your institution offered students during the Covid-19 pandemic (e.g. support or initiatives which focused on improving student mental health, academic progression, enhancement of physical skills, community integration etc.)
- (C) What was the outcome? Please provide detail regarding the results of the support programme/s your institution offered students during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Judges will be looking for bold initiatives that have helped students flourish across the 2020/21 academic year. Please included evidence, where applicable, of how you worked with students to (1) understand the problem (2) design the support programme/s and (3) how you evaluated the impact on student satisfaction.

### **2. Diversity and Inclusion**

Awarded to an institution that has championed diversity and inclusion (D&I) among students overcoming challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic across the academic year 2020/21.

**Please answer the three questions below (Maximum 300 words per question)**

- (A) Please provide an outline of the objectives of the D&I support programme/s your institution offered students during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- (B) Please outline details of the D&I support programme/s your institution offered students during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- (C) What was the outcome? Please provide some detail regarding the results of the D&I support programme/s your institution offered students during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Judges will be looking for creative campaigns/programmes which have resulted in a benefit to student equality and inclusion within the institution. Please included evidence, where applicable, of how you worked with students to (1) understand the problem (2) design the D&I support programme/s and (3) how you evaluated the impact on student satisfaction.

Contributions or submissions pertaining to staff programmes will not be considered within this category.

### **3. Excellence in Digital Innovation**

Awarded to an institution that has developed innovative and impactful digital solutions to improve the student experience and increase digital accessibility in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Please answer the three questions below (Maximum 300 words per question)**

- (A) Please provide an outline of the objectives of the digital solutions/initiatives your institution offered students to improve the student experience and increase digital accessibility in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- (B) Please outline details of the digital solutions/initiatives your institution offered students to improve the student experience and increase digital accessibility in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- (C) What was the outcome? Please provide some detail regarding the results of the digital solutions/initiatives your institution offered students to improve the student experience and increase digital accessibility in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Judges will be looking for imaginative, innovative use of digital technology to improve the student experience, specifically relating to students with low digital accessibility. This can include digital teaching and learning-related innovations. The judges will be looking for new approaches which have scalable, long-term impact on students.

Please include evidence, where applicable, of how you worked with students to (1) understand the problem (2) design the digital solutions/initiatives and (3) how you evaluated the impact on student satisfaction.

### **4. Enhanced Graduate Outcomes**

Awarded to an institution that can demonstrate effective delivery of innovative and impactful employability support during the pandemic.

**Please answer the three questions below (Maximum 300 words per question)**

- (A) Please provide an outline of the objectives of the employability support programme/s your institution offered students during the pandemic.
- (B) Please outline details of the employability support programme/s your institution offered students during the pandemic.
- (C) What was the outcome? Please provide some detail regarding the impact of the employability support programme/s your institution offered students during the pandemic, and proof of the positive impact the initiatives had on students.

Judges will be looking for uniqueness of the submissions. Please include evidence, where applicable, of how you worked with students to (1) understand the problem (2) design the employability support programme/s and (3) how you evaluated the impact on student satisfaction.

**Applications may be submitted in the following areas:**

[Student Support](#)

[Diversity and Inclusion](#)

[Excellence in Digital Innovation](#)

[Enhanced Graduate Outcomes](#)