

The Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2025 Terms and Conditions

1. General Terms and Conditions

- 1.1 The Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2025 (the “Awards” or “WUSCAs”) is the largest student-led alternative to traditional university rankings, where results are driven by unbiased student reviews.
- 1.2 The Awards are promoted and operated by IDP Connect Limited, Bedford House, 69-79 Fulham High St, London SW6 3JW (“IDPC”).
- 1.3 Eligibility Period: Reviews submitted at any point from 00:01 March 5, 2023, until 23:59 February 28, 2025, either via the online form or via our on-campus review collection process, will be included towards the 2025 rankings. Results will be announced at an in-person WUSCAs awards ceremony on 21 May 2025 and online following the event announcements.
- 1.4 Students can submit reviews for the following institution groupings:
 - University
 - Small or Specialist
 - Postgraduate University
 - International University
- 1.5 IDPC reserves the right to amend the eligibility period and other elements of the WUSCAs process (e.g., categories and institution groupings) at our discretion.

1.6 Prizes

The winners of the University, Small or Specialist, Postgraduate (PG) and Submission-based award categories will each receive the below prizes:

- A digital badge (or icon) that the winner can use in accordance with IDPC’s acceptable use rules, as notified by IDPC from time to time.
 - A content mention on Whatuni.com and idp-connect.com and across social media channels.
- The names of the winning institutions will be published on idp-connect.com and Whatuni.com on 22 May 2025. Each winning institution will be contacted directly by IDPC.

2. Institution Participation

- 2.1 To be involved with the review collection and WUSCA an institution must have an institution profile and course listings on Whatuni.com and meet eligibility criteria outlined in section 3. Institutions can check if they already feature on the site by going to www.whatuni.com/degrees/find-university. If institutions do not already have a profile on Whatuni and would like to be involved, they can contact the team at <https://www.idp-connect.com/contact>.
- 2.2 Students can submit an online review for their university at any time, but for their review to count towards the annual WUSCAs, it must be submitted during the eligibility period. Students may also fill out review forms via our Whatuni ambassadors when they visit their campus.
- 2.3 Reviews are welcome from all current students, studying at any level.
- 2.4 A percentage of all reviews go through an internal 2-step verification process before appearing live on Whatuni.com. This process confirms the submitter details and rationale of submission.
- 2.5 All reviews that meet user-specific terms and conditions for user-generated content on whatuni.com will be posted live on site. Please see link [here](#).

- 2.5 Institutions can support the Awards in any way they see fit e.g., by encouraging their students to submit reviews by including the reviews link in student emails and supporting the review collection process across social media. This must not, however, impact on the provision of unbiased student reviews. Should the institution be found to be using undue pressure on its students to provide positive reviews, Whatuni reserves the right to discuss the institution's participation in the Awards and to remove reviews from the site.
- 2.6 Institutions can get in touch with Whatuni for supporting artwork to help with promotion of the Awards.
- 2.7 Institutions can get in touch if they wish to assess their review collection progress, get help with best practice and confirm when they have reached the eligibility threshold (please contact suchi.mahato@idp.com for more information).
- 2.8 For the institutions who meet or exceed their threshold, Whatuni will share a file with their final review scores and verbatim comments. Institutions will not be permitted to copy all reviews on to their website.

3. Review-based award categories

There are 4 review-based award categories: University, Small or Specialist, Postgraduate and International.

3.1 University Awards

- a. Reviews are welcome from all students studying a NQF level five qualification or higher.
- b. Categories in the University Table are as follows; 'University of the Year', 'Career Prospects', 'Lecturers & Teaching Quality', 'Students' Union', 'Halls and Student Accommodation', 'Facilities', 'Student Life', 'Student Support'.
- c. Requirements for institution eligibility:
 - i. Not an officially designated FE College
 - ii. More than 500 total HE level enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22
 - iii. More than 200 UG enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22
 - iv. Enrolments on 4 or more subject areas (CAH) in 2021/22 (HESA)
 - v. Less than 60% of total student enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) are Non-UK enrolments in 2021/22 (HESA)
 - vi. Meets review submission threshold (tiered based on institution enrolments)
- d. Thresholds for the University awards* are:

Total enrolments	2025 minimum verified threshold
500-200	125 reviews
2,001-5,000	150 reviews
5,001-15,000	200 reviews
15,000+	250 reviews
20,000+	300 reviews

3.2 Small or Specialist category

- a. Reviews are welcome from all students studying a NQF level five qualification or higher only.
- b. The award for Small or Specialist institution of the year will be calculated based on the overall institution scores for verified reviews only. The review scores for other categories will be displayed onsite only: 'Overall Experience', 'Career Prospects', 'Lecturers & Teaching Quality', 'Students' Union', 'Halls', 'Facilities', 'Student Life', 'Student Support'.
- c. Requirements for institution eligibility:
 - i. Not in the FE College category
 - ii. More than 150 FTE HE level enrolments in 2021/22
 - iii. Fewer than 500 total HE level enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22 and/or enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) on less than 4 subject areas (CAH) in 2021/22
 - iv. Less than 60% of total student enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) are Non-UK enrolments in 2021/22 (HESA)
 - v. Meets review submission threshold (40 reviews)
- d. A viable number of institutions must meet the minimum review threshold for this category to feature in the Awards.

4. Postgraduate (PG) category

- a. A viable number of institutions must meet the minimum review threshold for this category to feature in the Awards.
- b. Requirements for institution eligibility:
 - i. Not in the FE College or Small or Specialist categories
 - ii. More than 500 total HE level enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22
 - iii. Less than 60% of total student enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) are Non-UK enrolments in 2021/22 (HESA)
 - iv. More than 200 PGT/PGR enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22
 - v. Meets review submission threshold (50 PG reviews)

4.1 International category

- a. A viable number of institutions must meet the minimum review threshold for this category to feature in the Awards.
- b. Requirements for institution eligibility:
 - i. Not in the FE College or Small or Specialist categories
 - ii. More than 500 total HE level enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22
 - iii. More than 200 Non-UK HE level enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22
 - iv. Meets review submission threshold (50 Non-UK student reviews)

4.2 All other categories (students' union, accommodation etc.)

- a. A viable number of institutions must meet the minimum review threshold for these categories to feature in the Awards.
- b. Requirements for eligibility:
 1. Not in FE College or Small or Specialist categories
 2. More than 500 total HE level enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22
 3. Enrolments on 4 or more subject areas (CAH) in 2021/22
 4. Less than 60% of total student enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) are non-UK enrolments in 2021/22 (HESA)
 5. Meets review submission threshold (tiered based on institution enrolments)
 6. Must meet review threshold (Accommodation threshold is 40 reviews. Other categories' thresholds will be announced in due course).

5. Submission-based award

There will be one submission-based award ("Submission Award") included in the 2025 WUSCAs. This award is judged by the Whatuni Student Advisory Board, a group of sixth-form, college and university students.

- 5.1 Institutions must meet the eligibility criteria and exceed their review threshold to be considered for the submission award category.
- 5.2 All entries must be submitted on behalf of the higher education institution by a representative of that institution with appropriate authority to act, and accept the terms and conditions, on its behalf.
- 5.3 All entries to the Submission Award category are subject to these terms and conditions. The making of an entry confirms the acceptance by the applicant institution of these terms and conditions.
- 5.4 To enter, please complete the application form here and submit it online. Entries must be received by 8 March 2025 at 11:59pm. Entries received after this will not be accepted. IDPC reserves the right in its absolute discretion to extend the closing date by providing details of the extension on its website. If you have any questions about how to enter or otherwise in connection with the Submission Award, please contact IDPC at idp-connect.com/Contact-us with "WUSCA Submission Award" in the subject line.
- 5.5 Entrants are responsible for all costs incurred in making and delivering their entries to the Submission Award.
- 5.6 It is your responsibility to deliver the entry to IDPC online in a complete and eligible manner. IDPC shall treat as ineligible any entry/ies that are delayed, incomplete or otherwise not capable of full review by IDPC and the Judges for any reason. IDPC shall also treat as ineligible any entry/ies that do not comply with the entry requirements.
- 5.7 Each entry may only be made by one higher educational institution. Joint submissions will not be accepted.
- 5.8 The applicant institution shall be responsible for obtaining all and any consents, permissions and authorisations that may be necessary in relation to the entry, including those rights and consents that are necessary to allow IDPC to use the entries, or all or any part of the information and data (including all content and images), as it is entitled to do under these terms and conditions. You shall ensure that no application infringes the rights of any nature or sort of any third party, including (but not limited to) intellectual property rights and rights in relation to personal information.

5.9 IDPC shall be a data controller in respect of any personal information supplied to it as part of an entry, and all such personal information shall be used by IDPC in accordance with its privacy policy, a copy of which can be seen [here](#), and in accordance with data protection legislation. IDPC shall store any personal information supplied to it as part of an entry in HubSpot (the Submission Award application platform) for a period no longer than 18 months from receipt.

5.10 The entry must not contain any [special category personal data](#) of any individual.

6 Submission Award: Judging

6.1 The Submission Award will be judged by a specially chosen Whatuni student panel made up of prospective and current university students selected by IDPC (“Judges”).

6.1.1 The Judges will select the winner, from a shortlist of valid entries received in the Submission Award category. The shortlist is judged and provided by internal judges using a scoring system.

6.1.2 IDPC will announce online the shortlist in March/April 2025. The winner of the Submission Award will be announced at the WUSCAs live event on 21 May 2025.

6.1.3 The winner will be notified by IDPC (via the nominated person given as point of contact on the entry). The decision as to winners will be made in the Judges’ absolute discretion.

6.1.4 Each applicant institution will need to ensure their submission relates only to current students studying for NQF level 5 programmes or higher.

6.2 Submission Award: Category and entry criteria

6.2.1 Career Coaching and Work Placements

- a. Awarded to an institution which has developed a comprehensive programme of work or initiative aimed directly at supporting and helping students navigate future career choices and actively supporting them to obtain ‘on the job’ experience through either work placements, links to industry and ongoing career guidance through pastoral support.

Judges will be looking for bold and innovative strategies that have provided tangible assistance to students across the 2023/2024 or 2024/2025 academic year in support of their career goals and aspirations. Judges will be looking for examples where institutions have gone above and beyond to help their student cohorts access work experience/placements, developed strong links to industry with end of course outcomes through internships or graduate employment programmes; above all, maintained consistent pastoral support in terms of career guidance, developing job searching skills and work ready individuals capable of navigating, adapting and harnessing professional opportunities in an ever-changing and complex employment arena.

1. How did your institution work to identify the support needed in relation to Career Coaching and Work Placements? If your entry is about work with a specific cohort, how did you establish the criteria or need to provide enhanced support in this area?
2. What was the process you undertook to determine your objectives and to design the initiative or support programme and how were students involved in this process?
3. How are you evaluating the success of the work and what are the results?

*This award differs from the Career Prospects Category Award, which is representative of how universities support students with Career Prospects as a whole. In contrast, the Career Coaching

and Work Placements Submission Award is an opportunity for universities to showcase areas of innovation, which harness the best outcomes for their students in terms of career prospects, post studies, through tangible actions and industry experience.

6.3 Submission Award: Schedule

Wed 1st November 2024 - 00:01 am: Submission Award applications open
Fri 8 March 2025-11:59 pm: Submission Award applications close
March/April 2025: Shortlist announced
21 May 2025: Winner of the Submission Award category announced at the 2025 WUSCA event

6.4 Submission Award: Entry requirements

Each entry submission should be submitted as a pdf attachment via the wuscas.submissions@idp.com and must contain as a minimum the following:

- A maximum of 500 words answering the Submission Award category questions set out
- 1 logo of the applicant institution in a high-resolution EPS/PNG format (or other format agreed with IDPC)
- A minimum of 1 piece of visual evidence in support of your answers i.e., 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. Although 1 piece is the minimum requirement, it is recommended that institutions provide as much evidence and collateral as possible, to properly bring their endeavours to life. For large files please provide a link where possible, e.g., YouTube links instead of downloaded formats. (Please make sure it is not a temporary link).

6.5 Submission Award: Prize

As outlined in the general Awards T&Cs above, the winner of the Submission Award category will receive:

- A digital badge (or icon) that the winner can use in accordance with IDPC's acceptable use rules, as notified by IDPC from time to time.
- A write-up on Whatuni.com and idp-connect.com

The names of the winning institutions will be published on idp-connect.com on 21 May 2025. Each winning institution will be contacted directly by IDPC.

7. The Whatuni Student Choice Awards Event

7.1 The Whatuni Student Choice Awards (WUSCAs) will be held on the 21 May 2025 at The Brewery, London.

7.2 Institutions can enquire about event tickets by going to <https://www.idp-connect.com/events/annual/wusca>, reaching out to their account directors or emailing idpc.events@idp.com.

7.3 Cancellations received up to 14 days before the event will receive a credit note which can be used for future bookings through IDP Connect.

7.4 For any cancellations received after 14 days prior to the event, a discretionary fee will be applied.

8. Other Awards and Submission Award terms and conditions

- 8.1 All winning institutions may be requested by IDPC to take part in promotional activity related to the Awards and each institution shall participate in such activity and make reasonable efforts to use the materials provided by IDPC on IDPC's reasonable request. Any promotional or other materials that are provided by IDPC to the applicant institutions must be used in accordance with any instructions provided by IDPC with such materials.
- 8.2 Each winning institution agrees to promote the Awards across their websites and social channels, and must always, when referring to the Awards or Bursaries, refer to the "Whatuni Student Choice Awards" or "Whatuni Bursary/ies" (if applicable) in all relevant communications.
- 8.3 Any publication of or other use of any entry (or any part of it) may be made by IDPC in its discretion. It shall be under no obligation to publish anything beyond the identity of the winning institutions.
- 8.4 The Submission Award winning institution grants IDPC a perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide licence to publish or otherwise use its Submission Award entry in any format whatsoever (including digital (such as on IDPC websites and IDPC social media accounts) and hard copy (such as in IDPC publications)) for all purposes connected in any manner with the Awards. IDPC shall also be entitled to use the institution's logo in any format whatsoever for all purposes connected in any manner with the Awards and Submission Award.
- 8.5 As part of its use of the Submission Award entry, IDPC may adapt (including by editing) the institution's entry in any manner in its discretion. The winning institution confirms that all moral rights in the entry to which any individual is entitled have been appropriately waived, so as to allow IDPC to make full use of the rights granted to it under these terms and conditions.
- 8.6 Each winning institution agrees that IDPC may publish their institution's name and logo in connection with the Awards and Submission Award.
- 8.7 The Submission Award winning institution warrants and undertakes that the work submitted with their entry is an original work, that it is not defamatory and that it shall not infringe any third-party rights including, without limitation, any intellectual property rights, rights of privacy or other rights of an individual in respect of personal information and data protection.
- 8.8 Each winning institution agrees that IDPC may grant (including to its partners and/or associated companies) a sub-licence of the rights given to IDPC under these terms and conditions on such terms as IDPC shall agree in its sole discretion.
- 8.9 IDPC reserves the right at any time prior to judging in its discretion to modify, suspend or end the Awards and/or Submission Award or any part of them with or without prior notice, but it will announce any such decision on its website.
- 8.10 Each winning institution shall, at its own cost and expense, at the request of IDPC perform all acts, and sign, execute and deliver all agreements, deeds and/or other documents, as may be reasonably required for the purpose of giving full effect to these terms and conditions and shall procure that necessary third parties shall also do so.
- 8.11 These terms and conditions shall be governed by English law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.