Student Activities Awards 2023/24



NEW SOCIETY OF THE YEAR 2023/24

**Notes for Applicants**

The ‘New Society of the Year’ award will be presented to a society that was approved between **the beginning of the second term of the 2022/23 academic year and the deadline for applications in the current year (2023/24)** which has exceeded normal expectations and the standards of other applicants in establishing solid foundations for its future development.

It is important that applicants:

* Clearly and concisely state the reasons why they fulfill the different criteria for the ‘New Society of the Year’ award AND
* Provide clear evidence for their statements in the form of concise and verifiable examples, relevant documents, relevant data, etc. - please feel free to submit a separate portfolio or attach additional sheets, as necessary.
* **The deadline for this application is the 25thof March 2024 at 12pm midday.**

**Applicants should not exceed the word per section limits, stated below –applications that exceed the word count will be cut off from the point the word limit is exceeded, and this content will not be regarded, as it is important that all applicants have an equal opportunity to present their case. The use of bullet points is recommended.**

**Name of Society ………………………………………………………………………………………………….**

**Name & Executive Position of Applicant ……………………………………………………………………**

**……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….**

**Date Society was Approved …………………**

**Current Number of Members …………………**

**Remember, the panel will look for clear evidence that your society has substantially exceeded both normal expectations and the standards set by other applicants in these areas.**

**SOCIETY FORMATION (MAXIMUM TOTAL 500 WORDS THIS SECTION)**

* Why did you choose to start this society? Was there a demand for this society from other members of the Students’ Union? How did you go about forming the executive team?
* After being approved, what initial steps did you take? How did you promote your society and organise your first events?

**STRUCTURE, ORGANISATION AND COMMITMENT (MAXIMUM TOTAL 1000 WORDS THIS SECTION)**

* How has your newly formed executive team structured its roles and responsibilities and what benefits does this provide to your members?
* How many events has your society organised since forming and how have you tailored these events so that new members can easily participate?

**HIGH QUALITY MEMBERSHIP (MAXIMUM 500 WORDS THIS SECTION)**

What do individuals gain from being members from your society? (You may want to include details of social opportunities, competitions, support services, etc.)

**‘THERE FOR EVERYONE’ (MAXIMUM 500 WORDS THIS SECTION)**

How does your society try to involve all its members equally, regardless of age, ability, nationality, gender, sexuality, religion or year of study?

**COMMUNICATION (MAXIMUM 500 WORDS THIS SECTION)**

How does your society communicate with members, non-members and the SU about opportunities, activities, events, achievements, etc. and how is this effective?

**COLLABORATIONS (MAXIMUM 500 WORDS THIS SECTION)**

What activities and events has your society undertaken and organised in collaboration with other SU Student Activities groups (Societies, Clubs, VTeam, Rebel etc) and have these been of mutual benefit to your organisations and members? Has your society taken part in university-run events such as Open Days? Have you collaborated in events external to the SU or University?

***Please carefully read over your application. Make sure that you have included all the information you want the panel to consider, and that you have attached evidence to support your statements, as you will not be able to submit this after the closing date for applications. If you submit any pictures as evidence and would be happy for them to be shown at this year’s Student Activities Awards, please tick the box.*** [ ]

***Applicant’s Signature ………………………….…. Date ………………………..***

***President’s Signature ……………………………… Date ………………………...***

Once completed, please email this application to susocs@essex.ac.uk with the subject title ***“\*Society Name\* New Society of the Year Award – Student Activities Awards 2023/24”***