

# Riley Awards Nominations 2026



## The Riley Awards:

With more than 350 clubs and societies doing the most incredible things here at LUU, the Riley Awards – which celebrate the very best of our student groups – are a pretty big deal.

Often nicknamed the LUU Oscars, these prestigious awards are presented to the clubs and societies that represent everything that is great about students at the University of Leeds. With awards celebrating some of the best events of the year, incredible community, and charity work, as well as some amazing student performances, this is a night you don't want to miss.

## How to nominate:

This document will outline the criteria for each award. Each award has a specific criterion to support a high standard of nominations. This year, there is only **one nomination form**. Within this form, you will be able to nominate for each award. Each award has a unique set of questions within the form, so make sure you are selecting the right award when answering the question "Which award are you nominating for?".

Please read the information about each award carefully, this will give you an idea of what each award is about and what should be nominated for them! Please fill out the form in detail and give us as much information as you can within the limits provided.

We will ask for your full name and a contact email so we can contact you if we have questions about the nomination, please make sure you fill out who you are nominating and your own name.

### **Nominations will be open from 02/03/2026 - 22/03/2026**

If you have any questions or issues with the form, please contact [t.gibson@luu.ac.uk](mailto:t.gibson@luu.ac.uk).

For some awards, you will be able to submit supporting evidence. Please follow the guidance for how to submit this evidence and submit **no more than 5 pieces of supporting evidence**.

**You can view previous nominations for inspiration here:** TBC

## General criteria:

Note that nominations will not be considered if they are copied across multiple awards- they need to be **original!**

It is the responsibility of those nominating to provide enough **information** and **evidence** for the award.

Within the word limits provided, please give us enough detail and information. If a nomination goes significantly over the word limit it will not be considered.

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It is about **quality** not **quantity**! You are better off submitting one good nomination rather than 50 short ones!

## How they are decided:

The Riley Awards shortlist is decided over two stages and about 3 weeks:

The Activities Exec, who are an elected body of student reps, vote on the award shortlists over two rounds. In Round 1 each Activities Exec member independently marks which nominations they think are worthy of taking through to the next round. This is a simple 'yes' or 'no' round to identify the stronger submissions.

In round 2, the Activities Exec will rank their three favourite nominations in each category. These rankings equate to points (1<sup>st</sup> = 3 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 2 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 1 point). Each nomination will then have an overall score and the top five scoring nominations will make up the shortlist for each category. We will then have our final shortlist. The final shortlist will be announced on the **15th of April 2026**.

To decide the winners, the Activities Exec and the Student Exec will sit together and deliberate on the shortlisted nominations. This meeting will be chaired by the Student Groups team as a neutral party who are not a part of the decision process.

Winners will be decided on the merit of the nominations. Panel members are encouraged to not include any personal experience or additional information when in discussion.

Panel members are not allowed to draw information from different nominations for different awards of the same nominee, nominations must be considered on an award-by-award basis.

There may be panel members directly or in-directly associated with nominees or nominated societies, these will be noted at the start of the discussion and, if panel members have nominated or have been nominated, they will not be involved in the deliberation of this award.

The Activities Exec provide context and further information for the Student Executive. The Student Executive then make the final decision on the winner by a majority vote.

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## Nominate here:

[The Riley Awards - Nomination Form – Fill out form](#)

## The Awards:

### Best New or Reformed Society:

This award celebrates a New or Reformed society that has made a strong and immediate impact on the Clubs and Societies programme at LUU. Whether you are brand new or bringing fresh life to a reformed group, we want to recognise the societies that have built momentum, shown creativity, and created a welcoming space for their members.

Tell us what has made your society stand out this year. What events or activities have you delivered, and what made them successful? How have you shaped your society's identity, built your community, and supported your members? And what steps have you taken to set your society up for long-term success?

#### What to consider:

- Challenges your society has faced and how you approached them
- Key successes or proud moments from the year
- How you have created an inclusive and supportive experience for members

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- Ways you have gone above and beyond to grow and strengthen your society
- What makes your society unique within the LUU community

Supporting evidence is not required for this award.

Societies must have been formed or reformed after Easter 2025. A society cannot be nominated for Best New or Reformed Society as well as Most Improved.

## Best New Collaboration:

This award celebrates a new collaboration formed between two or more groups. We are looking for partnerships that began after Easter 2025 and have already delivered something successful, creative, or impactful. This could be a one-off event you put together or the early stages of a partnership you've started to build.

Tell us what you worked on together and why this collaboration came about. What motivated you to join forces, and how did the idea develop? We would also love to hear how the collaboration benefited each group involved, what the outcomes were, and what made this partnership stand out as something special within the LUU community.

### Things to think about:


- What did you do, and which groups were involved?
- How and why did this new collaboration come about?
- What were the aims or motivations behind working together?
- How did the collaboration benefit each group?
- What were the outcomes or impact of your joint work?
- What made this new partnership outstanding?

Supporting evidence is not required for this award.

## Best Long-Standing Collaboration:

This award celebrates a long-standing collaboration between two or more groups that has continued to deliver successful or impactful work. The partnership must have been running since before Easter 2025 and should reflect a sustained, ongoing effort rather than a single event run by one group with others involved. This may be a recurring annual event or a well-established partnership that has grown and developed across multiple years.

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We want to hear about the groups involved and how your collaboration has progressed this year. What have you achieved together, and how has the partnership evolved or improved? Tell us how the collaboration is organised, how it benefits the groups involved, and what the outcomes have been. Most importantly, share what makes this collaboration outstanding and how it stands out compared to previous years.

## Things to think about:

- Which groups are involved in this long-standing collaboration
- How the partnership has grown, improved, or achieved more this year
- How the collaboration is organised and how you work together
- Benefits for each group and the outcomes you've seen
- What is outstanding about this collaboration, and how it differs from or builds on previous years

Supporting evidence is not required for this award.

## Give it a Go Award:

This award celebrates a club or society that has delivered one or more exceptional GIAG sessions within the 2025/26 programme. This could be two strong, well-run GIAGs, or one stand-out session that really made an impact. We want to recognise the groups who have used the GIAG platform to welcome new students, showcase what they do, and create a positive first experience.

Tell us about the GIAG event(s) you ran this year and how you organised them. What did the sessions involve, how were they planned, and how did you promote them? Let us know how many students attended, how you appealed to non-members, and how you encouraged new people to get involved. We are also interested in how your society grew or developed because of your GIAG activity.

## Things to think about:


- What event(s) you delivered as part of the GIAG programme
- A brief outline of each session: what you did and how you organised it
- How many people attended
- An example of a session aimed at non-members and how you targeted them
- How running your GIAG(s) helped your society grow or develop

Supporting evidence not required for this award.

## The Inclusivity Award:

This award celebrates clubs and societies that have made a dedicated effort to remove barriers to inclusion and create spaces where all students feel welcome. We are looking for groups who have embedded inclusive

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practice into their events, activities, and overall society culture, and who have actively considered how to engage students from a wide range of backgrounds.

Inclusivity can relate to any of the LUU liberation strands. We want to hear how your society has taken steps to recognise and address the needs of these communities and how you have worked to build a space where everyone can participate fully.

## Things to think about:

- How you promoted and embedded inclusive practice within your regular activities
- How your actions helped you engage students beyond your core group of members
- How you created an environment that was safe, welcoming, and inclusive, particularly for students within liberation categories
- The steps you have taken to build a supportive, friendly, and open community within your society

Supporting evidence not required for this award.

## The Sustainability Award:

This award recognises a group that has meaningfully embedded sustainable thinking and practices into their activities, decision-making, or community throughout 2025/26. Sustainability at the University of Leeds is about creating positive social, environmental, and economic impact, and we want to celebrate groups who have embraced this wider understanding through thoughtful choices that contribute to a fairer, greener, and more resilient future.

We are looking for societies who have taken steps to plan and deliver their work responsibly, acted with long-term thinking, or found creative ways to reduce waste, share resources, support wellbeing, or strengthen their community. This could include more sustainable event planning, travel choices, partnerships, purchasing decisions, digital approaches, or projects that connect with people and the planet. You do not need to be a sustainability-focused group, we just want to hear how your society has made considered, intentional choices aligned with the University and Union's sustainability values.

## Things to think about:

- How you have embedded sustainable thinking or practices into your regular activity, planning, or events
- How your actions connect to the University of Leeds' sustainability values (environmental, social, or economic)
- Ways you have shown sustainable thinking through resource sharing, reducing waste, inclusive wellbeing practices, climate-friendly decisions, or long-term planning
- Any creative, innovative, or practical steps you have taken to operate more responsibly as a group
- The positive impact your sustainable approach has had on your members, your community, or the wider environment

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We recommend submitting supporting evidence for this award.

## Most Improved Society:

This award recognises a society that has made significant progress during 2025/26. The group must have existed before Easter 2025 and should be able to demonstrate clear, meaningful development across the year. We are looking for societies that have taken active steps to strengthen their activity, organisation, community, or impact compared to previous years.

Tell us how your society has grown or improved, drawing on comparisons with your activity from the year before. Share the changes you made, why you made them, and how you went about putting these improvements into action. We are also interested in how these changes have shaped your society community and how you plan to sustain this progress in future years.

### Things to think about:

- What improvements you have made compared to the previous year's activity
- How you approached making those changes and the steps you took
- How you plan to sustain or build on these improvements in future years
- The impact these improvements have had on your society community

Supporting evidence not required for this award.

## Best Publicity:

This award recognises societies that have gone above and beyond in promoting their activities. We are looking for groups who have used creative, innovative approaches to publicise their work, engage members, and produce high-quality, accessible content throughout the year. Whether through social media, digital campaigns, LUU platforms or in person campaigns this award celebrates societies who have made their presence stand out.

Tell us about the strategy you used to showcase your society and events this year. How did you approach publicity in a creative or unique way? We would also love to hear how you used LUU's online tools and social media platforms to keep members informed, engaged, and excited about what you do.

### Things to think about:

- The strategy you used to publicise your society and its events effectively
- How you have been creative, innovative, or unique in your publicity approach
- How you have used LUU's online resources and social media to engage members

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We recommend submitting supporting evidence for this award.

It would be ideal if you could upload it in one file (like a word doc, pdf, or PowerPoint). Please name your document AWARD – SOCIETY NAME.

## Best Online Presence:

This award recognises a group that has used online spaces in a creative, engaging, and innovative way. Whether through social media campaigns, virtual events, or other digital activities, we want to celebrate societies that have made the most of online platforms to enhance their community and reach more students.

Tell us how you have used online tools as part of your society's activity this year. What made your approach creative or unique? We would also love to know how you used LUU's online resources, websites, and social media channels to keep members informed and engaged.

### Things to think about:

- How you used online platforms to support your society's activity
- How your approach to your online presence was creative or unique
- How you used LUU's online resources, websites, and social media to engage members

We recommend submitting supporting evidence for this award.

It would be ideal if you could upload it in one file (like a word doc, pdf, or PowerPoint). Please name your document AWARD – SOCIETY NAME.

## Best Campaign:

This award recognises groups that have taken meaningful action to raise awareness or create change during 2025/26. This could be a larger or long-running campaign, a series of linked activities, or a sustained effort that isn't tied to one specific society. We want to celebrate groups who have committed time, creativity, and energy to making a positive difference.

Tell us about your campaign: what it focused on, why it mattered, and what you aimed to achieve. Share how you promoted your message, engaged your audience, and encouraged others to get involved. Finally, let us know how successful the campaign was and what impact it created, whether that's big, small, or still developing.

### Things to think about:

- A brief outline of your campaign and its focus

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- The aims or goals of your campaign
- How you promoted the campaign and encouraged engagement
- How successful it was and the impact it had

We recommend submitting supporting evidence for this award.

It would be ideal if you could upload it in one file (like a word doc, pdf, or PowerPoint). Please name your document AWARD – SOCIETY NAME.

## Community Impact:

This award recognises groups that have made a significant and positive contribution to their local community during 2025/26. "Community" can mean any group of people relevant to your society, whether that's the local area, a national or international community, an online community, or a specific group your society aims to support. We want to celebrate meaningful and thoughtful community work that has created real impact.

Tell us about the community you have supported and why it matters to your group. Share the actions, projects, or initiatives you carried out, and how you approached making a positive difference. Finally, let us know what impact your work had, whether that's visible outcomes, long-term change, or meaningful support for those involved.

### Things to think about:

- Which community you supported and why
- What you did to help or contribute
- The impact your actions had on that community

We recommend submitting supporting evidence for this award.

It would be ideal if you could upload it in one file (like a word doc, pdf, or PowerPoint). Please name your document AWARD – SOCIETY NAME.

## Best Charity Fundraiser:

This award recognises a society that has gone above and beyond to raise money for a charity either through a single fundraising event or a long-term fundraising effort. We want to celebrate creativity, strong organisation, and genuine impact.

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Tell us about the fundraising campaign or event that you ran, the cause you supported, and the fundraising target you set. Share how much you raised, how you planned and delivered the campaign or event, and any innovative or unique approaches you used to maximise your fundraising efforts.

## Things to think about:

- What your fundraising target was and how much you raised
- How you raised the money and what your event involved
- Any creative or innovative fundraising methods you used
- How you planned, organised, and delivered your event

We recommend submitting supporting evidence for this award.

It would be ideal if you could upload it in one file (like a word doc, pdf, or PowerPoint). Please name your document AWARD – SOCIETY NAME.

## Best Performance:

This award recognises the most outstanding performance of the year, celebrating shows such as theatre, dance, music, comedy, or any other staged production. We want to spotlight groups who created something memorable through creativity, teamwork, and strong artistic delivery. The performance must have taken place since Easter 2025, and it cannot be nominated for both Best Performance and Best Event. Please note that this award does *not* relate to the competitive performance of sports societies.

Tell us about the performance you delivered, what it involved, how it came together, and what made it special. Share how you publicised the show, the platform or venue you used, how many people attended, and what made the performance stand out within your society and the wider LUU community.

## Things to think about:

- A brief outline of the performance and what it involved
- How you promoted or publicised the show
- The platform or venue used, and how many people attended
- What made this performance exceptional or memorable

We recommend submitting supporting evidence for this award.

It would be ideal if you could upload it in one file (like a word doc, pdf, or PowerPoint). Please name your document AWARD – SOCIETY NAME.

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## Best Event Under 50 Attendees:

This award recognises the best event of the year with under 50 attendees. The event must have taken place since Easter 2025 and must have been delivered to a group of fewer than 50 people. You cannot nominate the same show or performance for both Best Performance and Best Event. This award celebrates smaller-scale events that made a substantial impact, whether through creativity, atmosphere, organisation, or the experience offered to those who took part.

Tell us about the event you delivered, how you promoted it, and where it was held. Let us know how many people attended and what made the event stand out within your society and the wider LUU community.

### Things to think about:

- A brief outline of the event and what it involved
- How you publicised or promoted the event
- Where it took place and how many people attended
- What made this event exceptional or memorable

We recommend submitting supporting evidence for this award.

It would be ideal if you could upload it in one file (like a word doc, pdf, or PowerPoint). Please name your document AWARD – SOCIETY NAME.

## Best Event Over 50 Attendees:

This award recognises the best event of the year with over 50 attendees. The event must have taken place since Easter 2025 and must have been delivered to a group of more than 50 people. You cannot nominate the same show or performance for both Best Performance and Best Event. This award celebrates large-scale events that created a memorable experience, whether through creativity, strong organisation, community engagement, or the atmosphere you built on the day.

Tell us about the event you ran, how you publicised it, and where it took place. Let us know how many people attended and what made the event stand out within your society and the wider LUU community.

### Things to think about:

- A brief outline of the event and what it involved
- How you promoted or publicised the event
- Where it was held and how many people attended
- What made this event exceptional or memorable

We recommend submitting supporting evidence for this award.

It would be ideal if you could upload it in one file (like a word doc, pdf, or PowerPoint). Please name your document AWARD – SOCIETY NAME.

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## Outstanding Contribution to LUU:

This award recognises an individual who has gone above and beyond to help their peers Love Their Time at Leeds through an exceptional contribution to LUU. This could be through leadership, volunteering, community building, or consistent dedication to improving the student experience. You cannot nominate yourself for this award.

Tell us about the role or roles this individual has held and how they have supported others during their time at LUU. Share the achievements they are most proud of, the initiatives or projects they have contributed to, and the positive difference they have made. Finally, let us know what impact their actions have had on their peers, their society, or the wider LUU community.

### Things to think about:

- A brief outline of the individual's role(s) and involvement with LUU
- What they have achieved during their time at LUU
- The impact these achievements have had on others

## Best Society in their Category:

This award recognises the outstanding society within each category, celebrating groups that have consistently gone above and beyond for their members throughout the year. We are looking for societies that have delivered exceptional activity, built a strong and supportive community, and had a meaningful impact both within their category and across the wider LUU community. This award highlights societies who not only run smoothly but also demonstrate creativity, commitment, and a clear sense of purpose.

Tell us about your achievements this year and what truly sets your society apart. Share the moments you are most proud of, the steps you have taken to support and engage your members, and how you have contributed to the overall student experience. Clearly outline why your society has been the most successful in your category and why you believe it deserves to be recognised as the overall Best Society.

### Things to think about:

- Your key achievements as a society this year
- How you have supported, engaged, and involved your members
- What makes your society stand out within your category
- Why your society deserves to win Best Society overall

We recommend submitting supporting evidence for this award.

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It would be ideal if you could upload it in one file (like a word doc, pdf, or PowerPoint). Please name your document AWARD – SOCIETY NAME.

## Best Overall Society:

The shortlist for this award will be made up of the winners of Best Society in each of the other categories.

## Discretionary Award for Committees.

This new award recognises a committee that has demonstrated exceptional alignment with LUU's values, ambitions, strategy, and design principles throughout the year. We want to celebrate a committee whose actions have genuinely helped students Love Their Time at Leeds, whether through empowering their members, embedding inclusive practice, creating fun and engaging experiences, or making thoughtful, sustainable, and data-informed decisions.

This award is for committees who have consistently gone beyond the expectations of their roles: those who have shown initiative, creativity, responsibility, and a clear commitment to their community. We are looking for committees who have fuelled their members' passions, inspired others to be their best selves, and contributed to a lively, welcoming, and celebrated student community. Your nomination should highlight how your committee has used LUU's design principles, sustainable thinking, data-led insight, inclusive design, and meaningful student engagement, to guide the work you do.

You can submit a nomination based on your activity for the whole year, or for a single event or project aligning with the above criteria.

### Things to think about:

- How your committee has embodied LUU's values: *Empowering, Inclusive, Fun*
- How your actions have supported LUU's ambitions: fuelling passions, inspiring students, creating community
- How you have applied LUU's design principles in your planning and delivery (sustainable, data-led, inclusive, student-centred)
- What you have done as a committee to meaningfully improve the student experience this year
- Any examples of creativity, innovation, problem-solving, or going above and beyond

Supporting evidence is not required for this award.

If you are a Sports or physical activity group, don't forget you can also nominate yourself for a Gryphon Colours Award! You can nominate yourself for this award here: [Colours-Awards-Criteria-2026-1.pdf](#)