

RCN Student Ambassador of the Year Awards

1. Introduction

The RCN Student Ambassador of the Year Award recognises RCN Student Ambassadors who have made a difference at their university and shown outstanding commitment to the RCN and its members, especially student members.

2. Who can be nominated

All individuals who are currently an RCN Student Ambassador, or have been in the previous academic year, are eligible for the RCN Student Ambassador of the Year.

Individuals can only be awarded the Student Ambassador of the Year Award once.

3. Criteria

Nominees must be an RCN Student Ambassador, or have been in the previous academic year, who have made a difference at their university and shown outstanding commitment to the RCN and its members, especially student members.

1. **Impact:** How did the representative/Student Ambassador make a difference in their workplace/university or to other members?
2. **Benefits:** What were the benefits of what they did, either to the individuals who they represented, or to the workplace/university/branch as a whole?
3. **Uniqueness:** What was special about the way in which they did this? What personal qualities did they exhibit and how did they go about it?
4. **Legacy:** Did others learn from what the representative/Student Ambassador did, and has anything changed in their workplace/university or more widely because of it?
5. **Equity, diversity and inclusion:** How has the individual demonstrated an active commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion?

Examples of activities nominees may have engaged in are:

- *established, or re-invigorated, a nursing society at their university*
- *started a petition or campaign on a topical nursing or education issue*
- *recruited RCN student members, or encouraged others to become more involved as RCN Student Ambassadors*
- *provided peer support to help other student nurses*

- *organised an event that has benefited others on their course raised money for a nursing or health care charity.*

4. How to nominate

Nominators can be RCN members; however they do not need to be a member, but they must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be a student nurse and have been supported by an RCN Student Ambassador
- Have benefited in some way from the efforts of an RCN Student Ambassador
- Be a tutor or staff member at a university where an RCN Student Ambassador has made a real difference to their fellow students
- Been impressed by an active RCN Student Ambassador within your RCN branch
- Witnessed exceptional service and support by an RCN Student Ambassador.

Please note that RCN Student Ambassadors are not able to nominate themselves.

5. The process

The nominations process for RCN Awards is as follows:

- **Awards Open** - A call for nominations is made each year in the nursing press and in the internal RCN publications and on the RCN website. Nominators provide a single supporting statement for a nominee.
- **Awards Close** - A closing date for receipt of nominations is included in the publicity, and it is vital that nominators submit in time as late entries will not be considered by the Awards Committee.
- **Verification** – an internal process to determine that an individual is eligible for an Award (against the eligibility criteria mentioned in section 2).
- **Shortlisting** – All eligible nominations are reviewed by the relevant RCN Country or Regional Board to further develop the nominations against the criteria and to put forward one nomination from each category in the Country or Region.
- **Judging** - All eligible nominations will be submitted to the RCN Awards Committee, which will make recommendations for Awardees to the RCN Council.
- **Awarding** - RCN awardees, conferred by RCN Council, are presented with their award at the next awards ceremony.

The dates for opening and closing of nominations as well as any Awards ceremony will be found on the RCN website www.rcn.org.uk/awards

6. Prize

The prize for the winner is £500, while the commendeo will receive £250.

Winners and commendeos will also be included on a roll of honour published on the RCN website, and included in RCN communications publicising RCN Award winners.