

Alumni Awards Criteria 2026

These awards are designed to celebrate the successes, achievements, talents and impact of our alumni community. The awards are aligned to our [Vision 2030](#) values of:

- Collaborative
- Sustainable
- Creative
- Ethical
- Innovative
- Courageous
- Compassionate
- Inclusive

We are looking for alumni who embody these values and are true ambassadors for Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) and all that we stand for as 'the beating heart of opportunity'.

1.0 Award criteria and categories

The criteria for the five categories in the Alumni Awards 2026 are as outlined below.

Nominators must ensure that nominees meet eligibility criteria for the award in which they are being nominated.

The categories in the Alumni Awards 2026 are:

1.1 Alumni Community Hero Award

This award recognises and celebrates alumni who have gone above and beyond to make a positive impact in the local community and who have contributed their time and talents for the enrichment of others, and the betterment of society.

Criteria

An alumnus* who:

- Is a champion for social change, social good or social mobility, making a positive contribution to their community or an impact on society through their professional, voluntary or charitable activities, unlocking and nurturing opportunity for others.

- Has demonstrated determination and motivation while enriching the lives of others and has shown genuine passion and enthusiasm for making a difference through their chosen cause.
- Can demonstrate the tangible, transformative impact of their work.
- Has received external recognition/praise for their work.
- Is an inspiring role model, mentor or committed to supporting the next generation by being inclusive, supportive, ethical, innovative or compassionate.

1.2 Alumni Rising Star Award

This award recognises and celebrates innovative and successful recent alumni who have showcased determination, drive and excellence in the workplace or community, who are paving the way for others and demonstrating strong leadership and teamwork skills.

Criteria

An alumnus who:

- Is an emerging leader, who demonstrates potential to have long term success in their field/profession.
- Shows innovation, creativity, and drive, and can demonstrate early career success or community service achievements.
- Is an inspiring role model, mentor, champion for change, who isn't afraid to make bold, courageous decisions.
- Is making a positive contribution to an individual/group of individuals, community, professional practice or impact on society through their work/activities.
- Must have graduated in the last 8 years (from 2018 onwards).

1.3 Alumni Outstanding Contribution Award

This award recognises the incredible voluntary contribution that alumni make to the life and community of Canterbury Christ Church University, through enriching the experience, knowledge and employability of our students, or facilitating opportunities for business development and growth.

Criteria

An alumnus who:

- Has shown commitment to advancing the activities of the University, through voluntary** support over a number of years.
- Has made a tangible and positive impact on the University community, such as promoting collaborative, meaningful working partnerships with external organisations/individuals etc, acting as an Advisor/Mentor/Influencer to current students and/or staff, provided expert advice on the curriculum, or acted as an advocate recommending and promoting the activities of the University.
- Has given their time selflessly, professionally, ethically, and with enthusiasm and passion.
- Has worked collaboratively with the University, leading to innovative ideas and outcomes.

1.4 Alumni Sustainability Champion Award

This award recognises an alumnus, or group of alumni who are committed to 'Shaping Sustainable Futures', working to continually reduce their environmental impact, operating ethically and empowering others to be advocates for sustainability, or making a tangible impact through sustainable practices.

Criteria:

- Initiating innovative and collaborative action to enhance or embed sustainability in one of the four key areas: community, education, research, environment.
- Outstanding commitment to, and advocacy for, sustainability principles, embedding them as a core part of their personal or professional culture.
- Making a significant impact on addressing sustainability challenges, locally, regionally or globally.
- Encouraging greater understanding of sustainable practice through teaching, research, or community participation.

1.5 Alumni Equity and Inclusion Impact Award

This award highlights individual alumni or a group of alumni who have taken action to champion equality, diversity and inclusion (in areas including age, disability, gender, sexual orientation,

race and religion), demonstrating a strong commitment to advancing inclusive practices and embedding equality as a lived value in an organisational or community environment.

Criteria

- Has demonstrated transformative impact in culture, workplace, organisational/individual/community behaviour related to equality, diversity and inclusion practices.
- Has shown determination, motivation and genuine passion and commitment to making a difference despite challenges along the way.
- Is an inspiring role model/mentor/champion for EDI, showcasing the values of inclusion, equality, ethics and compassion and promoting equal opportunity for others.

2.0 Alumni eligibility and judging process

2.1 Alumni eligibility

- The nominee must have completed an undergraduate or postgraduate degree, or any qualification lasting over 12 months / one academic year at CCCU.
- Nominations can be for individual alumni or a group of alumni who have worked together on a project/activity.
- Alumni who have previously won an Alumni Award from CCCU are not eligible to win an award this year (2026).
- We will not accept nominations which contain duplicate statements from previous applications from 2023, 2024 or 2025. The nomination statement should be new for 2026 to ensure they have the greatest chance of being shortlisted.

The following alumni are ineligible for nomination:

- Active politicians, specifically Town and District councillors and serving Ministers of Parliament in the UK, or an equivalent position in another country.
- Deceased alumni (no posthumous awards will be made).
- Any alumni that have outstanding debt to the University (CCCU).

2.2 Judging process

- Eligible nominations will be shortlisted by representatives from the Graduate Futures Department. The shortlisted nominees will then be considered against the published

criteria by a panel of judges made up of senior members of staff from the University and our alumni community (where possible).

- The judges will select the winner(s) for each category and their decision will be final. This decision will be based on the evidence submitted in the nomination form alone.
- No communication will be entered into with any person in relation to any discussions or decisions by the judges.
- If there are no nominees considered of sufficient merit in any or all of the categories in any year, the judges may choose not to make an award in any or all of the categories.
- If there is more than one exceptional nomination in any or all categories, the judges can choose to give more than one award in each category.
- Before finalising the winners, the Graduate Futures team may carry out due diligence checks on alumni and the information provided in the nomination form to check for accuracy. This will include online checks on information which is publicly available, as well as speaking to CCCU staff. If information in the nomination form is found to be incorrect, the judges reserve the right to discount the nomination.

3.0 Nominations and winners

3.1 Eligibility to nominate

- Anyone is eligible to nominate an alumnus for an award. This includes alumni, staff of the University, students, friends, family, members of the public and colleagues etc.
- Alumni are invited to self-nominate providing they submit a supporting letter from an independent referee/seconder. Supporting letters cannot be written by relatives of the nominee and must be received within the deadline date for nominations.

3.2 Submission details

- All nominations must be made in English.
- All nomination forms must be received by midnight on Sunday 8 March 2026.
- The nomination form must be completed in full where possible/or a suitable audio/visual submission as discussed with the Alumni Relations Office and received by the deadline. Please ensure sufficient information is provided to enable fair consideration to be given, and include specific examples where possible.
- Incomplete nominations or those that do not fulfil the criteria will not be considered.

- Changes to nominations will not be accepted after the deadline has passed.
- Alumni must select one award category when submitting a self-nomination.
- Nominators must select one award category for each alumnus they nominate.
- Nominators are able to nominate more than one alumnus.
- Alumni who receive nominations in more than one category can only be shortlisted in one category.
- Nominators must seek permission from the nominee in advance to share personal details with CCCU and for this information to be processed in accordance with our [Alumni Privacy Notice](#).
- Information provided in this nomination form may be used for publicity purposes, including social media and our alumni newsletter, if a nominee is successfully shortlisted for an award.

3.3 Withdrawal from the Alumni Awards

- Nominations can be withdrawn any time before midnight on Sunday 8 March 2026. Notice of withdrawal must be sent via email to alumni@canterbury.ac.uk.
- In the event of a successful nominee declining to accept the award the judging panel may choose, but is not obliged, to offer the award to an alternative nominee.

3.4 Announcement of the winners

- All nominators will be contacted about the outcome of their nomination(s).
- Nominees will not be contacted unless they have been shortlisted, or won an award or submitted a self-nomination.
- Award winners may be asked to carry out an interview, photo shoot and/or to provide further information in preparation for the awards announcement/or after the announcement. The information given in the nomination form and in any interview may be published on social media, websites or in printed materials managed by the University for the purpose of public relations, marketing and advertising purposes. Award winners can ask for their information to be erased at any time.
- Award winners will be formally announced to the University community on 20 June 2026 at the Alumni Gala Dinner, and will be invited to attend.
- Nominators will be informed if their nominee has won an award once the winners have been announced.

3.5 Post-awards

- We may potentially work with the award winners and nominees to explore options for supporting the University as part of our Futures Partners programme, where relevant.

4.0 Personal data

- CCCU is a personal data controller registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. We process personal data in accordance with UK data protection law and the University Data Protection Policy.
- Personal data provided as part of the Alumni Award nominations will be processed for the purposes of shortlisting nominees and selecting and contacting winners, as described in these Terms & Conditions.
- In addition, personal data will be processed in accordance with our [Alumni Privacy Notice](#). See the privacy notice for further details, including your rights to withdraw consent, amend your contact preferences, or access the personal data we hold on you.
- If you have preferences as to how the University contacts you, or would prefer not to receive communications from us, you can let us know by emailing alumni@canterbury.ac.uk. Alumni can also complete this [online form to update their contact details](#) and communication preferences at any time.
- External nominators information will be stored with the nomination form on the profile of the nominee, and nominators have the right to ask for this information to be erased at any time.

4.1 Special Category Data

- Special category data is any data revealing or concerning an individual's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, health, sex life, sexual orientation, trade union membership, genetic data or biometric data. We do not ask for or require this type of data but sometimes it may be relevant to a nomination.
- If you are nominating yourself and choose to include special category data about yourself in your submission, we take this as your consent for us to process this data. If you are nominating someone else and wish to include special category data about them in your submission, you must make sure you have their consent to share this data with us. By submitting the nomination you are agreeing that you have done this.

5.0 General



- The Alumni Relations Office reserves the right to make a final decision on any individual's eligibility for the awards.
- The judging process and the individual results are confidential and will not be shared.
- Judges are required to declare any conflict of interest and will not be allowed to judge entries in which they have any interest.

**In this document 'alumnus' refers to former CCCU students of all genders/gender identity.*

*** 'Voluntary' is defined as the alumnus willingly giving their time/support to the CCCU outside of the context of a formal "contract" for monetary remuneration for their activity. An alumnus MAY be considered as undertaking activity 'voluntary' if they are in receipt of small incentives or University hospitality on the occasion of their volunteering, where it is provided as a token of gratitude to thank them for their time.*