

Study UK Alumni Awards application and selection process

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

1. Can I apply myself?

Yes, if you meet all the eligibility criteria (on our [website](#) under 'Who is eligible?'), you are welcome to apply for the Study UK Alumni Awards by completing the online application form.

2. Can I nominate someone else?

No, you are not able to directly nominate someone else, but you can encourage them to apply themselves.

If you would like to encourage someone to apply themselves, please download our recommendation letter template in our [campaign toolkit](#). This will give you guidance on communicating why you think someone should enter the Alumni Awards.

3. Can I reapply if I applied last year?

All applicants from the Alumni Awards in previous years, except global award winners, may re-apply if they meet this year's eligibility criteria. Winners from previous national level awards will be considered for the global awards only.

4. I'm not from the UK but I live here, can I apply?

No. The Alumni Awards are open to international UK alumni who are residing outside the UK for most of the time (their home should be outside of the UK). Your story should demonstrate how your UK higher education experience has benefitted your profession/community/industry outside of the UK and made a positive impact on your country of entry.

5. I have a British passport, can I still apply?

Some restrictions may apply to British passport holders. You need to be residing outside the UK for most of the time (your home should be outside of the UK) and the vast majority of the impact of your work needs to have taken place outside of the UK. And you need to have been an international student when you studied in the UK. [Please email the Alumni Awards team](#) if you have any questions.

6. Can I apply if I'm not a national/citizen of the country where I currently reside?

Yes, if you are living outside of the UK and can demonstrate how your success story meets the judging criteria.

7. I studied at a UK university before 2011, am I still eligible?

No, unless you also studied either at a UK university or in the UK for a minimum of one term or semester OR have been awarded a full UK degree level qualification (or higher) by a recognised HEI in your home country (Transnational Education – TNE/long-distance learning) between 2011 - 2026.

8. I studied in the UK from 2008 – 2011 and I graduated in 2011. Am I eligible?

Yes, alumni who graduated in 2011 onwards are eligible. The date considered as the 'end of study' is the graduation date on your award certificate.

9. I completed my master's at a UK University in 2019. I lived abroad and I am now a PhD student at a UK University. Can I apply and include my master's HEI on my application?

No. Only international UK alumni who live outside the UK are eligible.

10. I was a research fellow/assistant at a UK Higher Education Institution. Am I eligible?

No, you must have been enrolled as a student at an officially recognised body or received a recognised award from a UK HEI at degree level or above (defined as band 9 and above on the UK ENIC band framework), within the last 15 years.

11. How do I decide which award category to apply for? Can I apply for more than one?

When making your application, please submit to only ONE of the four awards categories (listed below). Multiple applications for different award categories will not be considered. If you submit more than one application, only the one submitted closest to the deadline, will be reviewed and scored. As such, applicants are encouraged to consider which category feels most relevant to their profile and career to date.

Additionally, if applicants are selected as finalists, the judging panel may allocate their application to a different award category, if they feel it better demonstrates the qualities in that category.

terms and conditions and [Please note: some national-level countries may hold additional categories in addition to the standard four Alumni Award categories. See our terms and conditions and privacy notice for more information.](#)

There are four award categories:

- **Business and Innovation award** - recognising alumni who are active in initiating and contributing to innovative or creative new ideas, solutions or business opportunities, that have the potential for growth.

Areas of work could include, but are not limited to: entrepreneurship, business, technology and finance.

- **Culture, Creativity and Sport award** - recognising alumni who have carved a career for themselves in arts, culture and sport. We are looking for individuals who can demonstrate their artistic ingenuity, influence and creativity.

Areas of work could include, but are not limited to: arts, design, humanities, traditional media, music, video, TV, sports and online content and audiovisual media creation (e.g. blogging, vlogging including for YouTube and social media).

- **Science and Sustainability award** - recognising alumni who have distinguished themselves through their career and achievements in the world of science and sustainability, and who can demonstrate the impact and scale of their achievements in their profession, and beyond.

Areas of work could include, but are not limited to: climate action, clean energy, medicine, sustainable cities and communities, engineering, industry and construction.

- **Social Action award** - recognising alumni who have made an exceptional contribution and commitment to creating positive social change and improving the lives of others.

Areas of work could include, but are not limited to: education, peace and justice and reducing inequality, poverty and hunger and broader humanitarian work or work for social good.

Beyond the details above, you can **read the profiles of the [2026](#), [2025](#) and [2024](#) global award winners and finalists** to get inspired and gain a deeper insight into the wide range of alumni we are currently celebrating.

12. Does my area of impact need to be related to my area of study?

No, it does not. Area of impact needs to be related to the category you apply in.

13. Does my selected award category need to be related to the degree I studied at my UK university?

It does not.

14. How do I decide on my country of entry?

Your country of entry should be where the majority of your work and the impact it has made has taken place. It must be outside the UK, as alumni living inside the UK are not eligible to apply.

Your application should demonstrate how your UK higher education and subsequent career has positively impacted your profession, society and country where you live now.

15. Is my country hosting national level Alumni Awards?

Alumni Award ceremonies will be held in these countries in 2027:			
1. Bangladesh	2. Brazil	3. Cyprus	4. Egypt
5. France	6. Ghana	7. Greece	8. India
9. Kenya	10. Korea	11. Nigeria	12. Pakistan
13. Qatar	14. Saudi Arabia	15. Taiwan	16. Thailand
17. UAE	18. USA	19. Uzbekistan	

If your country is listed above, please note that only if you are a national level award winner or finalist, you will be entered into the global Alumni Awards.

16. My country does NOT host national level Alumni Awards. What happens to my application?

If your country is not listed as hosting national level Alumni Awards and you are eligible to apply, you will automatically be entered into the global Alumni Awards pending verification from your university.

17. Do I need to contact my former university to let them know I'm applying?

You do not need to contact your former UK university to let them know that you are applying for the Alumni Awards as the British Council will do this on your behalf.

As part of the verification and shortlisting process, all shortlisted applications will be shared with applicants' respective UK universities. For more details, see our [terms and conditions](#). see our terms and conditions

18. When can I apply?

You can submit your application between 1 September - 15 October 2026.

19. What are the selection criteria for applicants?

All applications will be reviewed against the same judging criteria. See the judging criteria (on our [website](#) under 'Judging criteria') for evidence of what the judges will be looking for.

20. What supporting documentation is required for my application?

In the first stage of the application process, no supporting document is required. You can add copy(ies) of your UK degree certificate(s) if you wish, there is a space within the online application form to upload these.

21. Can I submit my supervisor's or employer's reference in my online application to strengthen my entry?

No, we do not accept references at the application stage.

22. Can I start my application and return to it to complete it?

Yes. You can start, save your application and complete it at a later stage. Upon saving the form, your unique application form link will be generated and shown on the screen. Please copy and save the link to return to your application. You will also receive an automatic email notification about your started application. Please check your spam / junk mailbox if you cannot find the email notification.

23. I made a mistake in my application. Can I resubmit?

Please do not resubmit your application and contact studyuk.alumni@britishcouncil.org to support you.

24. When should I expect to hear back after I've submitted my application?

All applicants will receive an immediate, automatic confirmation that their application has been submitted and received. Please check your spam / junk folder if you have not received the automatic email confirmation.

In November and December 2026 following the application deadline, shortlisting will take place. British Council will contact Higher Education Institutions to verify shortlisted applicants.

Between December 2026 and May 2027, winners and finalists of national level awards will be announced in their countries.

From June 2027 onwards, the 28 global finalists will be informed of their successful applications. Winners will be informed in August 2027. Finalist announcements will take place from July 2027.

All applicants, including those whose applications were unsuccessful, will be notified about the outcome of their application by email.

25. What happens if I am selected as a finalist?

If you are selected as a national or global finalist, you will be asked to provide the following documents:

- your current CV/resume
- a reference (this will be requested during the selection process)

You will also be asked to provide images, short bio, your social media accounts and photography consent to enable digital promotion and celebration of your profile on digital platforms.

If you're selected as one of the 28 global finalists, you will be requested to make a **one-minute self-made film about your UK education**, the impact it has had on you, and the scale of your success/impact in your country. In short, how you have applied what you learned in your UK education experience, and the impact of your work. The video will be viewed by the global judging panel as part of the judging process to identify the four global winners and may be used on Study UK social media accounts to promote your story.