



Employee Recognition Awards 2021

The President's Award for both Service Excellence and Service Innovation recognises stand out role models from across the University in Administrative, Technical, Professional and Support Service functions.

The President's Award for Service Excellence (Individual) recipients are:

1. Gemma Brazil, IT Services

"An exemplar of the courtesy, competence, and professionalism."

"Does not pass on or escalate issues but takes ownership and actively becomes an advocate for students, employees, and others".

"Adept at communicating with both internal and external stakeholders".

2. Fiona Casey, Education Department

"The pinnacle of professionalism and is a role model for all professionals working in the field of education".

"A beacon of good will, someone who has made the pandemic more bearable for hundreds of people in the Maynooth University community".

"Led and facilitated a shift to the live streaming and recording of lessons by students, negotiating the resultant complex ethical and GDPR issues with schools, tutors and students".

3. Ruth Killeen, Student Services

"A practical and non-judgemental approach where students feel that they have options and that barriers have been removed for them".

"An active and crucial role in student retention, academic achievement and the enhancement of the student experience".

"Notably instrumental in promoting Maynooth University's commitment to equality and inclusion".



4. Joanne Madden, IT Services

“Actively seeks to resolve problems and always offers a number of solutions to help work around unexpected issues that arise”.

“Creates a very natural sense of collaboration and collegiality, which creates a sense of ‘team’ in a very positive way”.

“Demonstrates the values of the University such as Integrity and Ethical Behaviour, Operational excellence, Organisational Flexibility and Responsiveness and Dignity and Respect and Care for the individual”.

5. Patricia McDonnell, Biology Department

“A pivotal role in liaising between academic staff and students and in providing stress-free ways for students to submit their work”.

“Positive, supportive, dependable, pro-active, effective, fair, compassionate, collegial, and always with a smile on her face. “

“Her relationship with the students and the level of care she tenders to the students is remarkable”.

6. Hugh Murphy, Library

“Exceptional collegiality and dedication to his role in a variety of different contexts”.

“Genuinely committed to fostering and promoting a University culture that values openness, fairness, inclusiveness and diversity”.

“Repeatedly resolved problems and removed obstacles encountered by staff and students without the slightest fuss and has been consistently open, fair and responsive in providing every possible assistance”.



The President's Award for Service Excellence (Team) recipients are:

1. Research Development Office

- Dr Carol Barrett
- Valerie Bartley
- Louise Bolger
- Patrick Boyle
- Marie Carr
- Deirdre Clayton
- Dr Vincent Fagan
- Dr Edward Holden
- Siobhan Kelly
- Dr Noreen Lacey
- Shona Leith
- Dr Eilish Lynch
- Elaine McCarthy
- Bernie McGrenaghan
- Dr Kim Reilly
- Dr Miriam Ryan
- Petra Stolfova
- Dr Caragh Tisdall

“What is particularly admirable about RDO is that they offer a complete service, covering every single step in developing, and later running, a project”.

“Every interaction I have reinforces my sense of a culture of helpfulness, enthusiasm, and extreme professionalism”.

“Utter professionalism, reliability, follow-through, friendliness, and courtesy”.



2. Engagement & Information Services – Library

- Elaine Bean
- Emma Boyce
- Katie Brennan
- Amie Butler
- Paul Cahill
- Malachy Conway
- Louise Cooke-Escapil
- Edel Cosgrave
- Mairead Finnegan
- Orla Flynn
- Jessica Furlong
- Patricia Harkin
- Kate Hawkins
- Michaela Hollywood
- Adam Keeley
- Aine Keenan
- Edel King
- Matthew McKenna
- Bernadette Mellon
- Eamonn Milliken
- Alan Monahan
- Barbara Mullin
- Ruairi Nolan
- Linda O'Connell
- Helen O'Connor
- Bridie O'Neill
- Nicole Weldon
- Andrea Woodcock

“Consistently provided a supportive environment by managing resources and removing blocks to effective working for both staff and students”.

“Acted as the Library’s frontline customer service team, facilitating the maintenance of library services to students and staff in extremely difficult, constantly altering and unpredictable circumstances”.



“Lead by MU Library’s example, other University Libraries rolled out similar schemes in their institutions and frequently contacted the EIS for specific advice on logistics of the scheme”.

3. Department of Law Administrative Team

- Dr Elaine Burroughs
- Olga Fay
- Vanessa Gallagher
- Carol Humphreys
- Rosemary Mangan
- Aimée Nelson

“Dealt with these challenges and excelled, making the Department one that stands out in terms of its collegiality and organisation”.

“Responding flexibly to new pedagogical innovations we have experimented with as a result of the pandemic and interacting with students in an understanding way”.

“Throughout everything, they are always supportive and incredibly efficient, but I think more than that they create a core around which the Department revolves.”



The President's Award for Service Innovation (Individual) recipient is:

Anthony Cleary, Design Innovation

"A vital part of our department both in terms of their professional and collegial manner but also the innovative role that he plays in our student offering and experience".

"Gives a significant portion of own time to work with students".

"Truly selfless activity that has greatly benefited the continued quality of student project work".

The President's Award for Service Innovation (Team) recipient is:

Admissions Office

- Judith Caffrey
- Aiveen Cooper
- Laura Creevey
- Fionnuala Finegan
- Gemma Hill
- Laura Hussey Donlon
- Margaret Madden
- John McGinnity
- Ita McGuigan
- Kay Mitchell
- Deirdre Ní Chearúil
- Barbara Peelo
- Sheila Purcell
- Emma Shine
- Paula Whitty

"Maynooth University was the first higher education institution in the country to transform its physical open day to a virtual open day in April 2020 after the pandemic struck. While other institutions cancelled their offering, Maynooth University worked collaboratively across the entire University community to offer a virtual experience to prospective applicants".



“Over 6,500 visitors attended the initial virtual event in April 2020 and viewed a range of over 120 bespoke presentations covering every aspect of the University, from academic departments to student support units. The virtual nature of the event allowed a higher presence from Graduate Studies and the International Office over and above the typical undergraduate Spring Open Days. Ní neart go cur le chéile!”

“Continually instigated new innovations at each virtual open day since to keep ahead of the competition. ‘Innovation’ has been the byword for us collectively”.