

## **WUSCAs 2026 Overall Terms and Conditions**

The Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2026 Terms and Conditions

### **1. General Terms and Conditions**

1.1 The Whatuni Student Choice Awards 2026 (the “Awards” or “WUSCAs”) is the largest student-led alternative to traditional university rankings, where results are driven by unbiased student reviews.

1.2 The Awards are promoted and operated by IDP Connect Limited, Bedford House, 69-79 Fulham High St, London SW6 3JW (“IDP”).

1.3 Eligibility Period: Reviews submitted at any point from 00:01 March 8, 2025 until 23:59 March 6th, 2026, either via the online form or via our on-campus review collection process through our Field Marketing Executives using the online form, will be included in the 2026 rankings. Results will be announced at an in-person WUSCAs awards ceremony in 2026 and online following the event announcements.

1.4 Students can submit reviews for the following institution groupings:

- University
- Small or Specialist
- Postgraduate University
- International University

1.5 IDP reserves the right to amend the eligibility period and other elements of the WUSCAs process (e.g., categories and institution groupings) at our discretion.

#### **1.6 Prizes**

The winners of the University, Small or Specialist, Postgraduate (PG) and Submission-based award categories will each receive the below prizes:

- o A digital badge (or icon) that the winner can use in accordance with IDP’s acceptable use rules, as notified by IDP from time to time.
- o A content mention on Whatuni.com and idp-connect.com and across social media channels. The names of the winning institutions will be published on idp-connect.com and Whatuni.com in April or May, 2026. Each winning institution will be contacted directly by IDP.

### **2. Institution Participation**

2.1 To be involved with the review collection and WUSCAs, an institution must have an institution profile and course listings on Whatuni.com and meet eligibility criteria outlined in section 3.

Institutions can check if they already feature on the site by going to [www.whatuni.com/degrees/find-university](http://www.whatuni.com/degrees/find-university). If institutions do not already have a profile on

Whatuni and would like to be involved, they can contact the team at <https://partners.idp.com/contact>

2.2 Students can submit an online review for their university at any time, but for their review to count towards the annual WUSCAs, it must be submitted during the eligibility period. Students may also fill out review forms via our Whatuni ambassadors when they visit their campus.

2.3 Reviews are welcome from all current students, studying at any level.

2.4 A percentage of all reviews go through an internal 2-step verification process before appearing live on Whatuni.com. This process confirms the submitter details and rationale of submission.

2.5 All reviews that meet user-specific terms and conditions for user-generated content on whatuni.com will be posted live on site - [HERE](#). More information can be found on our student facing [Instapage](#).

2.6 Institutions are encouraged to support the Awards by promoting review submissions through emails, digital channels, and social media. However, reviews must remain impartial. Any attempt to unduly influence reviewers or encourage only positive submissions may result in disqualification or the removal of the affected entries.

2.7 Institutions can get in touch with Whatuni for supporting artwork to help with promotion of the Whatuni Student Choice Awards.

2.8 Institutions can get in touch if they wish to assess their review collection progress, get help with best practice and confirm when they have reached the eligibility threshold (please contact [wusca.support@idp.com](mailto:wusca.support@idp.com) for more information).

2.9 For the institutions who meet or exceed their threshold, Whatuni will share a file with their final review scores and verbatim comments. Institutions will not be permitted to copy all reviews on to their website.

### **3. Review-based award categories**

There are 4 review-based award categories: University, Small or Specialist, Postgraduate and International.

#### **3.1 University Awards**

a. Reviews are welcome from all students studying a NQF level five qualification or higher. To be eligible to submit a review, individuals must verify their status using a valid .ac.uk email address, confirming that they are currently enrolled at a UK higher education institution as at least a first-year undergraduate.

b. Categories in the University Table are as follows; 'University of the Year', 'Career Prospects', 'Lecturers & Teaching Quality', 'Students' Union', 'Halls and Student Accommodation', 'Facilities', 'Student Life', 'Student Support'.

**c. Requirements for institution eligibility:**

- i. Not an officially designated FE College
- ii. More than 500 total HE level enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22
- iii. More than 200 UG enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22
- iv. Enrolments on 4 or more subject areas (CAH) in 2021/22 (HESA)
- v. Less than 60% of total student enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) are non-UK enrolments in 2021/22 (HESA)
- vi. Meets review submission threshold (tiered based on institution enrolments)

**d. Thresholds for the University awards\* are:**

Total enrolments and WUSCAs 2026 minimum verified threshold:

| Enrolment number (students) | Threshold   |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 200-2000                    | 125 reviews |
| 2,001-5,000                 | 150 reviews |
| 5,001-15,000                | 200 reviews |
| 15,000-20,000               | 250 reviews |
| Over 20,000+                | 300 reviews |

**3.2 Small or Specialist category**

- a. Reviews are welcome from all students studying a NQF level five qualification or higher only.
- b. The award for Small or Specialist institution of the year will be calculated based on the overall institution scores or University Rating for verified reviews only. The review scores for other categories will be displayed onsite only: 'Overall Experience', 'Career Prospects', 'Lecturers & Teaching Quality', 'Students' Union', 'Halls', 'Facilities', 'Student Life', 'Student Support'.

**c. Requirements for institution eligibility:**

- i. Not in the FE College category
- ii. More than 150 FTE HE level enrolments in 2021/22
- iii. Fewer than 500 total HE level enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22 and/or enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) on less than 4 subject areas (CAH) in 2021/22
- iv. Less than 60% of total student enrolments (HESA student enrolment

instances) are non-UK enrolments in 2021/22 (HESA)

v. Meets review submission threshold (40 reviews)

d. A viable number of institutions must meet the minimum review threshold for this category to feature in the Awards.

#### **4. Postgraduate (PG) category**

a. A viable number of institutions must meet the minimum review threshold for this category to feature in the Awards.

b. Requirements for institution eligibility:

i. Not in the FE College or Small or Specialist categories

ii. More than 500 total HE level enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22

iii. Less than 60% of total student enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) are non-UK enrolments in 2021/22 (HESA)

iv. More than 200 PGT/PGR enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22

v. Meets review submission threshold (50 PG reviews)

#### **4.1 International category**

a. A viable number of institutions must meet the minimum review threshold for this category to feature in the Awards.

b. Requirements for institution eligibility:

i. Not in the FE College or Small or Specialist categories

ii. More than 500 total HE level enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22

iii. More than 200 Non-UK HE level enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22

iv. Meets review submission threshold (50 non-UK student reviews)

#### **4.2 All other categories (students' union, accommodation etc.)**

a. A viable number of institutions must meet the minimum review threshold for these categories to feature in the Awards.

b. Requirements for eligibility:

1. Not in FE College or Small or Specialist categories
2. More than 500 total HE level enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) in 2021/22
3. Enrolments on 4 or more subject areas (CAH) in 2021/22
4. Less than 60% of total student enrolments (HESA student enrolment instances) are non-UK enrolments in 2021/22 (HESA)
5. Meets review submission threshold (tiered based on institution enrolments)
6. Must meet category review threshold to qualify in the following categories–  
University Halls threshold – 60 reviews. · Career Prospects – 60 reviews

#### **5. Shortlisting Process:**

5.1 Once the WUSCAs 2026 deadline closes, the team will review and extract data for all institutions covering the period from **March 8th, 2025, to March 6th, 2026.**

5.2 Institutions that reach both their Main Threshold and the specific thresholds for University Halls and Career Prospects *before the official deadline* are eligible to compete for a place on the shortlist in all WUSCAs categories.

5.3 Institutions that meet the Main Threshold but do not meet the thresholds for University Halls or Career Prospects are still eligible to compete in all other WUSCAs categories, except the two they did not qualify for.

5.4 The average review scores submitted for each relevant section of the WUSCAs Form determine the Top 10 institutions in each category's shortlist.

5.6 The shortlist will be announced by early-to-mid-April 2026.

5.7 Winners will be announced at the Whatuni Student Choice Awards Night.

5.8 The Submission-Based Award category follows a distinct process (outlined separately below). To participate in this category, a university must reach its Main Review Threshold.

5.9. Note: Scores displayed on an institution's Whatuni profile do not reflect annual WUSCAs scores. They are an average of all historical reviews submitted on the website across each category.

## **6. Submission-based award**

There will be one submission-based award (“Submission Award”) included in the 2026 WUSCAs.

This award is judged by the Whatuni Student Advisory Board, a group of sixth-form, college and university students.

6.1 Institutions must meet the eligibility criteria and exceed their review threshold to be considered for the submission award category.

6.2 All entries must be submitted on behalf of the higher education institution by a representative of that institution with appropriate authority to act, and accept the terms and conditions, on its behalf.

6.3 All entries to the Submission Award category are subject to these terms and conditions. The making of an entry confirms the acceptance by the applicant institution of these terms and conditions.

6.4 To enter, please complete the submission and submit it via email at [submission.wusca@idp.com](mailto:submission.wusca@idp.com). Entries must be received by 6th March 2026 at 11:59pm. Entries received after this will not be accepted. IDP reserves the right in its absolute discretion to extend the closing date by providing details of the extension on its website. If you have any questions about how to enter or otherwise in connection with the Submission Award, please contact IDP at [submission.wusca@idp.com](mailto:submission.wusca@idp.com) with “WUSCAs Submission Award” in the subject line.

6.5 Entrants are responsible for all costs incurred in making and delivering their entries to the Submission Award.

6.6 It is your responsibility to deliver the entry to IDP online in a complete and eligible manner. IDP shall treat as ineligible any entry/ies that are delayed, incomplete or otherwise not capable of full review by IDP and the Judges for any reason. IDP shall also treat as ineligible any entry/ies that do not comply with the entry requirements.

6.7 Each entry may only be made by one higher educational institution. Joint submissions will not be accepted.

6.8 The applicant institution shall be responsible for obtaining all and any consents, permissions and authorisations that may be necessary in relation to the entry, including those rights and consents that are necessary to allow IDP to use the entries, or all or any part of the information and data (including all content and images), as it is entitled to do under these terms and conditions. You shall ensure that no application infringes the rights of any nature or sort of any third party, including (but not limited to) intellectual property rights and rights in relation to personal information.

6.9 IDP shall be a data controller in respect of any personal information supplied as part of an entry. All such personal information shall be used by IDP in accordance with its privacy policy, a copy of which can be accessed here, and in compliance with applicable data protection legislation. IDP shall store any personal information supplied as part of an entry in its internal database for no longer than 18 months from receipt.

6.10 The entry must not contain any special category personal data of any individual.

### **6.11 Submission Award: Judging**

6.11.1 The Submission Award will be judged by a specially chosen Whatuni student panel made up of prospective and current university students selected by IDP (“Judges”).

6.11.1 The Judges will select the winner, from a shortlist of valid entries received in the Submission Award category. The shortlist is judged and provided by internal judges using a scoring system.

6.11.2 IDP will announce online the shortlist in March/April 2026. The winner of the Submission Award will be announced at the WUSCAs live event in 2026.

6.11.3 The winner will be notified by IDP (via the nominated person given as point of contact on the entry). The decision as to winners will be made in the Judges’ absolute discretion.

### **6.12 Submission Award: Category and entry criteria**

6.12.1 Topic - Supporting Students Through the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

6.12.3 Submission Award: Schedule

13th January 2026 - 00:01 am: Submission Award applications open

28th Feb 2026-11:59 pm: Submission Award applications close

6 March 2026 – 11:59 pm: Submission Award application deadline extension close

March/April 2026: Shortlist announced

May 21, 2026: Winner of the Submission Award category announced at the 2026 WUSCAs event

### **6.13 Submission Award: Entry requirements**

6.13.1 Each entry submission should be submitted as a pdf attachment via the [wusca.submission@idp.com](mailto:wusca.submission@idp.com) and must contain as a minimum the following:

- o A maximum of 500 words answering the Submission Award category questions set out
- o 1 logo of the applicant institution in a high-resolution EPS/PNG format (or another format agreed with IDP)
- o You are required to provide a minimum of 1 piece of visual evidence, with a maximum of 5 attachments to support your answers. This could include photos, videos, or other creative assets. Additional optional evidence may include campaign URLs, campaign stills, videos showcasing project outcomes, status reports, or similar materials.

o for large files, please provide links where possible (e.g., YouTube or other permanent links instead of downloadable formats). Temporary links should be avoided to ensure accessibility for the judges

#### **6.14 Submission Award: Prize**

As outlined in the general Awards T&Cs above, the winner of the Submission Award category will receive:

- o A digital badge (or icon) that the winner can use in accordance with IDP's acceptable use rules, as notified by IDP from time to time.
- o A write-up on Whatuni.com and idp-connect.com

The names of the winning institutions will be published on <https://partners.idp.com/> on May 22nd , 2026. Each winning institution will be contacted directly by IDP.

#### **7. The Whatuni Student Choice Awards Event**

7.1 The Whatuni Student Choice Awards (WUSCAs) will be held on the 21 May 2026 at De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms, London.

7.2 Institutions can enquire about event tickets by going to <https://partners.idp.com/events/search/annual>, reaching out to their account directors or emailing [idp.ukorders@idp.com](mailto:idp.ukorders@idp.com).

7.3 Cancellations received up to 14 days before the event will receive a credit note which can be used for future bookings through IDP Education.

7.4 For any cancellations received after 14 days prior to the event, a discretionary fee will be applied.

#### **8. Other Awards and Submission Award terms and conditions**

8.1 All winning institutions may be requested by IDP to take part in promotional activity related to the Awards and each institution shall participate in such activity and make reasonable efforts to use the materials provided by IDP on IDP's reasonable request. Any promotional or other materials that are provided by IDP to the applicant institutions must be used in accordance with any instructions provided by IDP with such materials.

8.2 Each winning institution agrees to promote the Awards across their websites and social channels, and must always, when referring to the Awards or Bursaries, refer to the "Whatuni Student Choice Awards" or "Whatuni Bursary/ies" (if applicable) in all relevant communications.

8.3 Any publication of or other use of any entry (or any part of it) may be made by IDP in its discretion. It shall be under no obligation to publish anything beyond the identity of the winning institutions.

8.4 The Submission Award winning institution grants IDP a perpetual, non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide licence to publish or otherwise use its Submission Award entry in any format whatsoever (including digital (such as on IDP websites and IDP social media accounts) and hard copy (such as

in IDP publications)) for all purposes connected in any manner with the Awards. IDP shall also be entitled to use the institution's logo in any format whatsoever for all purposes connected in any manner with the Awards and Submission Award.

8.5 As part of its use of the Submission Award entry, IDP may adapt (including by editing) the institution's entry in any manner in its discretion. The winning institution confirms that all moral rights in the entry to which any individual is entitled have been appropriately waived, so as to allow IDP to make full use of the rights granted to it under these terms and conditions.

8.6 Each winning institution agrees that IDP may publish their institution's name and logo in connection with the Awards and Submission Award.

8.7 The Submission Award winning institution warrants and undertakes that the work submitted with their entry is an original work, that it is not defamatory and that it shall not infringe any third-party rights including, without limitation, any intellectual property rights, rights of privacy or other rights of an individual in respect of personal information and data protection.

8.8 Each winning institution agrees that IDP may grant (including to its partners and/or associated companies) a sub-licence of the rights given to IDP under these terms and conditions on such terms as IDP shall agree in its sole discretion.

8.9 IDP reserves the right at any time prior to judging in its discretion to modify, suspend or end the Awards and/or Submission Award or any part of them with or without prior notice, but it will announce any such decision on its website.

8.10 Each winning institution shall, at its own cost and expense, at the request of IDP perform all acts, and sign, execute and deliver all agreements, deeds and/or other documents, as may be reasonably required for the purpose of giving full effect to these terms and conditions and shall procure that necessary third parties shall also do so.

8.11 These terms and conditions shall be governed by English law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.