



Inspire! Adult Learning Awards 2021 Guidance and Categories

Closing date: Friday 19 February 2021

What are the Inspire! Awards?

The Inspire! Awards celebrate the achievements of exceptional individuals, families, projects and organisations who have shown outstanding passion, commitment and drive to improve themselves, their community or workplace through learning.

The awards are organised by Learning and Work Institute, in partnership with Welsh Government.

The award ceremony will take place as part of Adult Learners' Week.

What are we looking for?

We are looking for individuals, families, projects and organisations whose learning achievements will inspire others to return to or take up learning - people who have improved their lives and /or the lives of others and gained a positive or life changing experience from adult learning.

Individual & Family Awards

- Into Work
- Young Adult
- Life Change & Progression
- Health & Wellbeing
- Ageing Well
- Starting Out - Welsh beginner
- Different Past: Shared Futures
- Family Learning
- Essential Skills for Life

Project & Organisation Awards

- Community Impact Project
- Skills at Work

A guide to submitting your nomination

- Entries are free and open to individuals and organisations living and working in Wales
- Learning can be accredited or non-accredited and take place in any setting, from workplace to classroom, in the home or in the community
- Anyone aged 16 or over can nominate / be nominated for an Inspire! Award, please refer to the guidance on each category
- Entrants for the individual categories must be nominated by another person - this could be a friend, mentor, a colleague, family member, or employer who is well

known to the individual nominated

- Entries for the project / organisation categories should be written by a team or project leader and endorsed by a senior manager / referee who knows the provision well
- Your application will be judged on the information you provide in your entry so please make sure you read the Inspire! Awards categories criteria below to help with this
- Both nominee and nominator statements must be completed, please refer to our guide on ['how to write a successful nomination form'](#) to help you with your form

Remember to submit by the closing date - Friday 19 February 2021

How does the selection process work?

- An independent panel of judges from the learning, skills and media sector will select the final category award winners
- We would like any nomination for the Inspire! Awards to be a catalyst for celebrating the stories of adult learning. We would encourage anyone nominating for the awards to use the process to celebrate each nominee with local/regional award ceremonies and to join the Adult Learners' Week festival to do this
- The nominators of all Inspire! award winners will be notified by the end of March when details of the award ceremony will be released

How can I submit my nomination form?

BY EMAIL

Please email your completed form to:

inspire@learningandwork.org.uk

Inspire! Awards 2021 categories

Individual and Family Awards

Into Work

For many people, the incentive for developing their skills is to improve their job prospects, to access work for the first time or after a long period of economic inactivity.

This award recognises an individual who has demonstrated outstanding determination to improve their employability through learning, with the aim or outcome of getting a job.

[Chloe Young](#) 2020 award winner

[Thomas Ferriday](#) 2019 award winner

Young Adult

For some the first experience of education is not always positive but many young people return to post-compulsory education because they want to make a positive change and build a better future. Some young people may not have been able to fully engage with school because of caring responsibilities or may have experienced disruption in their lives for other reasons.

The winner of this award will be a person who has shown real commitment to their own learning journey, and who is one to watch for the future! This award is open to any learner aged between 16 - 25 (we particularly welcome nominations on behalf of looked after young people, care leavers and young carers).

[Alisha Morgan](#) 2020 award winner

[Owen Roberts](#) 2019 award winner

[Jimama Ansumana](#) 2017 award winner

Life Change & Progression

We know that learning creates opportunities for people to get on in life, work and at home. Sometimes staying motivated and committed to learning can be hard, and many people face significant barriers to overcome. As the population grows and ages and new technology develops, we are all working for longer, changing careers more often and learning new skills throughout our lives.

This award recognises an adult learner who has progressed in their learning, perhaps against the odds, through different stages; maybe to university or into their dream job. The winner of this award will be someone who has really caught the learning bug. This maybe someone who has changed their life or career path through learning, demonstrating that it's never too late for a second chance, a new direction or fresh start!

[Andrea Garvey](#) 2019 award winner

[John Spence](#) 2018 award winner

[Emily Harding](#) 2018 award winner

[Rose Probert](#) 2016 award winner

Health & Wellbeing

Adult learning protects health and wellbeing and supports longer and productive lives. Addressing the major issues of mental health, ageing, loneliness is a critical challenge for our future.

This award will recognise the impact that adult learning can have on health and wellbeing. The award winner will demonstrate the wider benefits of adult learning and the difference this has made to their quality of life. Nominations may describe links between learning provision and health and social care and outline if health interventions have changed or reduced while the nominee has been learning. The award winner should demonstrate that their learning has prevented significant mental and / or physical health and wellbeing issues or contributed to recovery.

[Jamie Evans](#) 2020 award winner

[Catrin Pugh](#) 2018 award winner

[Laura Harris](#) 2017 award winner

Essential and life skills (new for 2021)

Literacy, numeracy, digital, financial capability, health literacy and citizenship are central to people's job and career prospects and ability to be active and engaged in their communities. Over time, economic and social changes, and the advance of technology, are increasing their importance.

This award winner will demonstrate the impact of building essential skills and the transformation it can have, this may be increasing confidence, supporting family relationships, the ability to engage more with public services and social interactions.

Ageing Well

Learning in later life makes a significant contribution to tackling loneliness, staying connected, maintaining an active lifestyle.

This award recognises the value of continuing to learn and gain new skills into older age, it will demonstrate the contribution that many older people make to lifelong learning. The award winner should demonstrate why they have continued to learn or engage in learning in later life, they may be active in sustaining self-organised learning in their community or may be passing on their skills across generations. This award is open to learners over the age of 60.

[Ralph Handscomb](#) 2020 award winner

Starting Out - Welsh Beginner

The ambition in Wales is to create a million Welsh speakers by 2050. For adults, there are opportunities to learn online, through a community class or in the workplace.

This award recognises an individual who has made a start at learning Welsh by following a Learn Welsh course at Entry or Foundation level. We aren't expecting the award-winner to have fully mastered the language; however, we would like entrants to have demonstrated a commitment to developing their skills in Welsh and to using the language with their family, in their community or workplace.

[Joseff Gnagbo](#) 2020 award winner

[Rhiannon Norfolk](#) 2019 award winner

[Marilyn Llewellyn](#) 2018 award winner

Different Past: Shared Futures

Wales has a proud and diverse cultural heritage and a long history in welcoming and supporting migrant and refugee communities.

This award will recognise the contribution made by those who have chosen to make new lives here. We are looking for an individual (a refugee, asylum seeker or migrant) who has accessed learning and developed their skills, leading them onto further learning, employment or volunteering.

[Chawan Ali](#) 2020 award winner

[Tarek Zou Alghena](#) - 2019 award winner

Family Learning

Becoming a parent is often the motivation needed to take a step back into learning. Many parents want to have the skills to effectively support their children through their life and we know that children whose parents have higher levels of skills and qualifications tend to do better at school.

We want to recognise a parent or family group taking part in family/adult learning either in school, in the community or at home. We want to hear about the impact on them as a family - has it made a difference to their relationships as a family, raising aspirations for work, community involvement or achievement at school.

[The Smith Family](#) 2020 award winner

[Natalie Lintern](#) 2019 award winner

[Khala Slack and Sarah Slack](#) 2016 award winner

[Alison Rogers](#) 2016 award winner

Project | Organisation awards

Community Impact Project

For many people, the route back into learning starts close to home, in a community venue, or as part of a community project. Many community projects recognise the role of education and skills as a key enabler that will give people the confidence they need to succeed.

This award recognises a community project that has successfully used learning as a key tool to get people helping themselves and others. The winner of this award will be a project that works with people who would not otherwise engage in formal or informal education or training, or who need a second chance!

[Community Impact Intuitive](#) 2020 award winner

[CHASE Programme](#) 2019 award winner

[Rhyl Football in the Community](#) 2018 award winner

[3Gs Only Men Allowed](#) 2017 award winner

Skills at Work

Investing in skills at work benefits all in the workplace. Upskilling workers improves communication, working relationships and productivity while reducing absence levels and raising staff morale.

We want to recognise learning and development in the workplace where the achievements, success and impact on individuals and teams can be demonstrated. This award aims to clearly show both the business benefits to the organisation and the workers. It can showcase inclusivity, innovation and good practice models of learning and development; delivered by workforce partnerships.

This may include improving career progression, delivering opportunities for those who may have had fewer chances to develop their skills at work or creating inspirational partnerships to meet objectives and accomplish sustainable outcomes. The nomination may focus on a specific learning project or scheme within a workplace, it may be a whole organisation approach (large or small) to engaging with, developing and supporting people; or it may be activity which has been led by trade unions and or other partners such as third sector and training providers.

[Chwarae Teg Agile Nation 2](#) 2020 award winner

[Waste Management Team](#) 2019 award winner

[Essential Skills Team Cardiff Council](#) 2018 award winner