

Gwobrau Addysg
Oedolion

Ysbrydoli! Inspire!

Adult Learning
Awards
2024

Lifelong learning changes lives.
Inspire us and share your story.

Categories and Guidance

Closing date for entries:
12th April 2024



SEFYDLIAD DYSGU A GWAITH
LEARNING AND WORK INSTITUTE



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

This document is available in [Welsh](#).

What are the Inspire! Adult Learning Awards?

Lifelong learning benefits everyone and it has the power to change lives.

The Inspire! Adult Learning Awards celebrate the achievements of people, organisations and community projects in Wales who have experienced the transformational power of learning, embraced second chances, and unlocked new possibilities. They highlight the impact of adult and lifelong learning, demonstrating the value of investing in life-changing opportunities.

We are working with partners to inspire more people to take up lifelong learning opportunities and to share their achievements and the many benefits that come along with learning new skills.

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

The awards ceremony will take place as part of [Adult Learners' Week](#).

Inspire us by making nomination:

We are looking for individuals, 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.

2024 award categories:

- Skills for Work Award
- Young Adult Learner Award
- Life Change & Progression Award
- Ageing Well Award
- Starting Out – Welsh Beginner Award
- Different Past: Shared Futures Award
- Essential Skills for Life Award
- Hywel Francis Award for Community Impact
- Workplace Change Makers Award

In addition to the standard award categories, we are introducing a special Lifetime Achievement Award to recognise individuals who have made a significant and lasting impact on lifelong learning in Wales. If you know someone who deserves this honour, please [contact us](#) to nominate them.

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 online, 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
- At Learning and Work we are dedicated to supporting equality and diversity and to improving access to education for all groups. We welcome nominations from all backgrounds and with all different kinds of life experiences and abilities.
- 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 and organisation categories should be written by a team or project leader and endorsed by a senior manager or referee who knows the provision well. We also welcome statements from learners and employees involved in the project and organisation to support the nomination.
- Your application will be judged on the information you provide in your entry so please make sure you read the Inspire! Awards category guidance below to help with this and include as much detail in your statements. Supporting documents are also welcome.
- Both nominee and nominator statements must be completed.

Closing date for entries: Friday 12th April 2024

How does the selection process work?

- An independent panel of judges from the adult learning sector will select the final category award winners.
- Nominees who are shortlisted may be contacted again prior to the final selection panel meeting to provide further information to support their nomination.
- All nominations selected as award winners will have their stories shared through press and media – this will include filming, photography, and press releases.
- The nominators of all Inspire! award winners will be notified by May 2024.
- 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.

There are three ways to submit your nomination:

Email - please complete our [Word document nomination form](#) and send it to us by email: inspire@learningandwork.org.uk.

Online - use our [online nomination form](#) to submit your entry. The online form will need to be completed in one sitting, we recommend that you prepare your nominee and nominator statements using the word document before submitting it online.

Film - Share your transformative learning experience through a compelling video clip of up to five minutes. Complete sections one, three and four of the nomination form, upload your video to YouTube as an unlisted or private link, and email us both the nomination form and the video link: inspire@learningandwork.org.uk.

Inspire! Awards 2024 categories

Skills for Work Award

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. Good work offers people the opportunity to continue to learn and develop skills in the workplace, leading to progression and sustainable employment.

This award recognises an individual who can demonstrate outstanding determination to improve their employability through learning and who can demonstrate the role that learning has played in securing a job or the learning involved to achieve progression in work.

[Jenna Smith](#) – 2022 award winner

[Emma Howells](#) – 2023 award winner

Young Adult Learner Award

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 care experienced young people, care leavers and young carers).

[Harley Clements](#) – 2023 award winner

[Ewan Heppenstall](#) – 2022 award winner

[Wilnelia De Jesus](#) 2021 award winner

Life Change & Progression Award

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, 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, career path or tackled health challenges through learning. This award winner will demonstrate that it's never too late for a second chance, a new direction or a fresh start!

[Elinor Ridout](#) – 2023 award winner

[Karryann Healey](#) – 2022 award winner

[Emma Williams](#) 2020 award winner

[John Spence](#) 2018 award winner

Essential skills for Life Award

Literacy, numeracy, digital, financial capability, health literacy and citizenship are central to people's job and career prospects, wellbeing and ability to be active and engaged in their communities. 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, accessing work/work progression, supporting family relationships, the ability to engage more with public services and social interactions.

[Vale People First Men's Group](#) – 2023 award winner

[Bethan Humphreys](#) – 2022 award winner

[Clare Palmer](#) 2021 award winner

Ageing Well Award

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.

[Jan Wallace](#) – 2023 award winner

[John and Val Snare](#) – 2022 award winners

Starting Out – Welsh Beginner Award

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.

[Steven Wright](#) – 2023 award winner

[Tom Dyer](#) – 2022 award winner

[Joseff Gnagbo](#) 2020 award winner

Different Past: Shared Futures Award

Wales has a proud and diverse cultural heritage and a long-standing history in welcoming and supporting forced migrant and refugee communities. This award will recognise the achievements and contribution made by those who have chosen to make new lives here in Wales. We are looking for an individual who has accessed learning and developed their skills,

leading them onto further learning, employment, or volunteering.

[Walid Musa Albugai](#) – 2023 award winner

[Hisham Saeed / Zaina Aljumma](#) – joint award winners 2022

[Fatma Al-Nahdy](#) 2021 award winner

Hywel Francis Award for Community Impact

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 the impact of 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.

[Families Learning Together CAVC](#) – 2023 award winner

[Springboard – Learning Pembrokeshire](#) – 2022 award winner

Workplace Change Makers Award

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 organisations creating positive change in the workplace, driving forward opportunities for learning and development where the achievements, successes 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.

[Powys Teaching Health Board](#) – 2023 award winner

[Ceredigion County Council – Learning and Development Team](#) – 2022 award winner

[UNISON Cymru Wales WULF Project](#) 2021 award winner

[Nursing Students of The Open University in Wales](#) 2021 award winner