



Guidance on making your nomination

A new campaign to
Get the Nation Learning



getthenationlearning.org.uk



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About the Get the Nation Learning Awards

Lifelong learning has never been more important. For society, for our economy, for everyone. We need to Get the Nation Learning – with government, employers, communities and individuals all having a vital role to play. These awards shine a light on organisations and people leading this change, and recognise examples of learning that create healthier futures, stronger communities, more opportunities, and a thriving economy. Put simply, it is the biggest celebration of lifelong learning in England.

Winners are selected for a wide range of categories, and the winners can include learners, educators, learning providers, employers, community organisations and local/mayoral authorities. Full details are included in the eligibility criteria. Winners will be selected by an expert panel convened by Learning and Work Institute.

All nominations must be submitted [online](#).

Key dates

- **28 May 2025** Nominations open
- **25 July 2025** Nominations close
- **August** Winners are notified and invited to the award ceremony
- **4 November 2025** Get the Nation Learning award ceremony

Eligibility criteria

For all awards

- Awards are open to people and organisations in England only.
- There is no limit to the number of nominations someone can make. However, we do not accept multiple nominations concerning the same person or organisation.
- Nominations must be authorised before being submitted. It is not appropriate to nominate people or organisations without their knowing.
- An organisation (i.e. adult learning provider, community organisation, employer or authority) is able to nominate themselves for an award.
- An **information sheet** for individual learner and tutor or curriculum lead nominees is available on the Get the Nation Learning website.

The specific eligibility criteria for each award are outlined in the pages below.



Healthier Futures Award

The award: Celebrates organisations improving health and wellbeing through learning in workplaces and communities across the UK, as well as individuals who have transformed their mental and/or physical health through learning.

Why this matters: Learning for any reason and none is good for mental health and wellbeing. Over 1.3m adults in England are currently in contact with NHS mental health services, while 2.8m working age UK adults are not seeking employment due to ill health.

The award is open to:

- Employers investing in skills and training that supports a healthier workplace.
- Adult learning providers combatting ill health, mental health conditions, isolation or loneliness.
- Community organisations involved in social prescribing and supporting better health through learning.
- Adults who have improved their health as a result of learning.

Your nomination should:

- **For an employer:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to invest in skills and training that supports a healthier workforce. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the employees who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For an adult learning provider:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what they have done to combat ill health, mental health conditions, isolation or loneliness. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a community organisation:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done in relation to social prescribing or supporting better health through learning. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a learner:** Provide an overview of what your nominated person has done, and how they have improved their health as a result of engaging with learning. Provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award. Your nomination should also include a statement from the learner.

Stronger Communities Award

The award: Celebrates organisations creating stronger, more inclusive communities through adult learning provision.

Why this matters: Last year's riots show us the need to build a more cohesive and integrated society, with stronger and more resilient communities. Levels of loneliness and social isolation are also on the rise among all age groups. Adult learning of all types reduces social isolation and makes people more confident, trusting, and resilient. It also increases levels of social interaction between people from different backgrounds.

The award is open to:

- Adult learning providers engaged with marginalised communities or people perceived to be hard to reach.
- Community organisations engaging with marginalised communities or people perceived to be hard to reach through learning.

Your nomination should:

- **For an adult learning provider:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what they have done to engage marginalised communities or people perceived to be hard to reach in learning. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a community organisation:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to engage marginalised communities or people perceived to be hard to reach in learning. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.

Talent is Everywhere Award

The award: Celebrates organisations breaking down barriers to learning for people of all backgrounds.

Why this matters: Place, social class, ethnicity, age, employment status, prior learning – all these things shape adults' ability to access learning, build successful careers and lead fulfilling lives. There are persistent and significant inequalities in access to learning across different geographies and groups. Where opportunity is thwarted, employers and our economy also suffer, missing out on the diverse skillsets people possess or have the potential to develop.

The award is open to:

- Employers combatting disadvantage and inequalities and promoting learning opportunities for all.
- Adult learning providers combatting disadvantage and inequalities and promoting opportunities for all.
- Community organisations combatting disadvantage and inequalities and promoting opportunities for all.

Your nomination should:

- **For an employer:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to combat disadvantage and inequalities and promote learning opportunities for all. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the employees who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For an adult learning provider:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what they have done to combat disadvantage and inequalities and promote learning opportunities for all. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a community organisation:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to combat disadvantage and inequalities and promote learning opportunities for all. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.

Net Zero Hero Award (sponsored by NOCN)

The award: Celebrates employers, adult learning providers, or community organisations equipping people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy, or adults who have engaged with learning to gain 'green skills', upskill or retrain.

Why this matters: For the UK to reach net zero and reap the rewards, a truly national effort is required. Be it skilled workers deploying clean energy infrastructure, or consumers lowering energy use and emissions, we all have a role to play.

The award is open to:

- Employers equipping people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy.
- Adult learning providers equipping people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy.
- Community organisations equipping people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy.
- Learners who have upskilled or retrained to gain 'green skills'.

Your nomination should:

- **For an employer:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to equip people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the employees who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For an adult learning provider:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what they have done to equip people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a community organisation:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to equip people with the knowledge and skills needed in the green economy. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a learner:** Provide an overview of what your nominated person has done to engage upskill or retrain to gain green skills. Provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award. Your nomination should also include a statement from the learner.



Learning with Technology Award (sponsored by Ufi VocTech Trust)

The award: Celebrates organisations, projects, or provision using technologies to enable and enhance learning for work and extend the reach of learning opportunities.

Why this matters: Technology is constantly changing the world of work, and the skills people need to succeed. The same is true for how we learn, with new technologies providing opportunities to help people gain skills more flexibly in innovative and imaginative ways.

The award is open to:

- Employers using technology to enable and enhance learning and empower people to gain the skills for work.
- Adult learning providers using technology to enable and enhance learning and empower people to gain the skills for work.
- Community organisations using technology to enable and enhance learning and empower people to gain the skills for work.

Your nomination should:

- **For an employer:** Briefly describe the organisation, project or provision you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of how technology was used to empower people to gain the skills for work. Please provide a statement on why you think your nomination should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on how technology was central to learning. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the employees who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For an adult learning provider:** Briefly describe the organisation, project or provision you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of how technology was used to empower people to gain the skills for work. Please provide a statement on why you think your nomination should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on how technology was central to learning. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a community organisation:** Briefly describe the organisation, project or provision you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of how technology was used to empower people to gain the skills for work. Please provide a statement on why you think your nomination should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on how technology was central to learning. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.

New Directions Award (sponsored by City Lit)

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The award: Celebrates a learner who has taken a first step or new direction in their career or re-entered the world of work.

Why this matters: As working lives get longer, lifelong learning needs to both be and feel possible for everyone, particularly for those lacking confidence and essential skills. Too many people lack the essential skills for life and work, and feeling too old is the most common barrier to learning.

The award is open to:

- Learners who have taken a first step or new direction in their career or re-entered the world of work.

Your nomination should:

- Provide an overview of what your nominated person has done, and how they have taken a first step or new direction in their career or re-entered the world of work. Provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award. Your nomination should also include a statement from the learner.

CITYLIT

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Regional Growth Award

The award: Celebrates mayoral combined authorities and local authorities integrating adult learning into local and regional growth plans and supporting great outcomes for people from all backgrounds.

Why this matters: More powers are being devolved to English regions to engage adults in learning and create programmes that respond to local need. Regional skills inequalities are larger in England than most other countries, contributing to substantial regional inequalities in GDP per capita, productivity and disposable income.

The award is open to:

- Local authorities integrating adult learning into local growth plans and supporting great outcomes for people from all backgrounds.
- Mayoral combined authorities integrating adult learning into regional growth plans and supporting great outcomes for people from all backgrounds.

Your nomination should:

- **For a local authority:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to integrate adult learning into local growth plans and support great outcomes for people of all backgrounds. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.
- **For a mayoral combined authority:** Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to integrate adult learning into regional growth plans and support great outcomes for people of all backgrounds. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the learners who has benefited from the learning on offer.

Excellence in Teaching Award (sponsored by The Education and Training Foundation)

The award: Celebrates tutors and curriculum leaders who have increased the impact of an adult learning provider within their community and local economy.

Why this matters: People working in adult learning are inspirational, empowering learners to achieve their goals, and supporting people to lead fuller richer lives. This can be tutors in the classroom, or those behind the scenes creating innovative curricula or driving organisational change.

The award is open to:

- Tutors that have broken down barriers to learning and who has shown a commitment to professional development to better meet the needs of learners.
- Curriculum leads that have broken down barriers to learning and who has shown a commitment to professional development to better meet the needs of learners.

Your nomination should:

- **For a tutor:** Provide an overview of what your nominated person has done to break down barriers to learning and show a commitment to professional development to better meet the needs of learners. Provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award. Your nomination should also include a statement from the tutor.
- **For a curriculum lead:** Provide an overview of what your nominated person has done to break down barriers to learning and show a commitment to professional development to better meet the needs of learners. Provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award. Your nomination should also include a statement from the curriculum lead.

Employer of the Year Award (sponsored by NOCN)

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The award: Celebrates employers boosting investment in skills and reducing inequalities in access to workplace learning.

Why this matters: Investing in skills and training helps employers increase productivity, harness new technologies, and build happier workplaces. The best firms know this, but total employer investment has fallen sharply, and the UK is lagging behind internationally. This is holding people, businesses, and our economy back, with the lowest paid most likely to miss out on training.

The award is open to:

- Employers transforming the lives of people in their workplace, community and/or local economy through learning; employers looking for talent in underexplored areas; employers helping people back into the world of work and investing in their potential.

Your nomination should:

- Briefly describe the organisation you are nominating, including its purpose and goals. Provide an overview of what the organisation has done to boost investment in skills and reduce inequalities in access to workplace learning. Please provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including specific evidence on the impact they have had. Your nomination should also provide a statement from one of the employees who has benefited from the learning on offer.



Patron's Award

The award: HRH Princess Anne is L&W's Patron. This award celebrates inspirational adult learners.

The award is open to:

- Adults who have transformed their life through learning.

Your nomination should:

- Provide an overview of how your nominated person has transformed their life through learning. Provide a statement on why you think they should be considered for the award, including the learning they have done, what they have achieved and challenges they have overcome. Your nomination should also include a statement from the learner.



How to submit a nomination

Please read through the following guidance carefully.

- The Get the Nation Learning awards nominations process is **online**.
- Nominations should be submitted online by the nominator.
- One form should be completed per nominee.
- We strongly advise that you prepare and draft your nomination using the **nomination questions document** in advance. However, you can save a partially completed nomination form and return to it later if needed. To do this, select 'Saved responses'. You will be taken to a page with the link that you can use to resume the survey. You will also have the option to request that this link is emailed to you. The link to your partially completed form is generated online and our team do not have access to it, therefore please keep your link or email safe.
- Based on the information provided, nominations will be considered for all relevant awards. However, we ask that you tailor your responses to the award you think your nomination is most suitable for.
- Nominations will need to include a written statement from one learner. It is the nominator's responsibility to explain the process to the learner and obtain the relevant written statement for inclusion in the nomination. An **information sheet** for individual learner nominees and tutor or curriculum lead nominees including answers to FAQs is available on the Get the Nation Learning website.



Preparing and drafting your nomination

We strongly advise that you prepare and draft your nomination using the [**nomination questions document**](#). We recommend that you use this document because:

- It will enable you to review all questions on the nomination form before completing any answers. The [**online nomination form**](#) requires you to complete one section before you can move on to view the next.
- Should you encounter any technical issues with the online form, you will still have a saved copy of your work in a Word document.
- You will have a copy of your final nomination for your own records. Once your nomination has been submitted, you will no longer be able to access it online.

We cannot accept nomination forms that are sent to us using the Word document. It has been provided to help you to draft your nomination only.

Technical or accessibility issues and other support

If you have any questions about the nominations process or are unable to complete the [**online nomination form**](#) due to technical or accessibility issues, please contact the Get the Nation Learning awards team at [**getthenationlearning@learningandwork.org.uk**](mailto:getthenationlearning@learningandwork.org.uk). We will respond to emails as soon as possible (usually within two working days).



