

1. Aims

The **Edinburgh Award** (the Award) aims to help our students learn to excel, increase their impact and stand out from the crowd in whatever circumstance or role they find themselves, now and in the future. Therefore, instead of having a specific standard for students to achieve, the Award encourages, facilitates and rewards an approach of:

- identifying what it means to excel, personally and for the current role/circumstance;
- working purposefully and strategically towards this, translating and applying learning and abilities between situations; and
- maximising the positive impact on the surrounding context (people/organisation(s)).

2. Approach

The Award works on something similar to a franchise model – a centralised set of principles and guidelines (**the Award Framework**) that are interpreted locally to produce tailored versions of the Award into which students can opt. Students can opt into and receive multiple Awards.

All locally tailored versions of the Award are run by relevant academic and non-academic units (**the local Award unit**), and are attached to a particular student activity or type of activity, e.g. being a volunteer or being part of a school's peer-assisted learning scheme – this is the student's **activity base** around which their Award experience is structured.

Reporting to the University's Employability Strategy Group, the **Edinburgh Award Advisory Group (EAAG)** is responsible for maintaining oversight of the Award Framework – accrediting all local Award units and their plans for running local versions of the Award, and ensuring ongoing quality assurance and enhancement of the Award.

The **Edinburgh Award Representatives Network (EARN)** is a cross-institutional community of practice, bringing together staff responsible for running each of the local versions of the Award. EARN meets periodically to discuss the practical issues, challenges and approaches used when running a local version of the Award, feeding key issues to EAAG.

3. What is involved – students and staff

On the following page is an outline of what additional work is involved, for students and for staff, as a result of being involved in a local version of the Award. For the staff involved, consultancy is available through EAAG to assist in drawing on existing good practice and to ensure compliance with the Award Framework – trying to minimise any additional work but maximise the benefit to both students and staff.

4. Further information

For further information, please contact: **Edinburgh Award Team** (Edinburgh.Award@ed.ac.uk).



Beyond the activity base, what's involved for students to receive the Award?

What's involved for staff to run the Award?

Engagement in the activity base must equal or exceed the minimum threshold set by staff

Agree the minimum engagement required of students on the Award

At start: Input 1 – Aspiring

- This input focuses on students identifying / understanding what it means to excel in this activity base, what that means for them personally, what their own priorities are and planning for this.

Run Input 1

Can be integrated into general induction session for the activity base

Monitor attendance and collect electronic submissions

Midway through: Input 2 – Developing

- This input focuses on progress and embedding – identifying students' progress and development, how this has been achieved, alternative approaches that could be used for challenges faced and revised action plans.

Run Input 2

Electronic/group session

Collect electronic submissions from Input 2

At end: Input 3 – Owning

- This input focuses on students appreciating, selling and using the ways in which they have benefited and developed – i.e. how has operating in this context impacted on you, and how have you impacted on the context? It seeks to capture, solidify and look to the future.

Run Input 3

Group session

Monitor attendance

Validation

- Electronic submissions (any format) of individual reflections on progress and learning against own goals and on impact achieved
- Provide contact reference for activity base

Collate and check electronic submissions.

Checking of references as necessary

Forward list of students successfully completing Award to EAAG

Non-mandatory attendance at Award reception event (either centrally or locally run)

Attendance at Award reception event