

Teachers of the Year 2019

Nominations were judged against the following criteria:

“The nominee should be an individual whose teaching over the past year has been outstanding. He or she should demonstrate an ability to communicate ideas effectively, be able to motivate and stimulate students to learn, whilst at the same time showing a commitment to innovation and excellence in education.”

Dr Alison Fisher, School of Health Sciences, FBMH

As Psychology BSc Programme Director, Dr Alison Fisher has been responsible for the smooth running of this large degree and its positive development through a recent Faculty restructure and major sector changes.

Alison continues to deliver excellence in teaching, drawing on recent pedagogic developments, making use of innovative technologies, delivery methods and assessments.

Just one example of this is her use of a reflective report where students reflect on their experiences of receiving coursework feedback with a view to building their self-awareness and resilience.

The students' feedback on Alison highlights her ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and to engage students in learning difficult or dry material.

Alison challenges students, demanding that they take responsibility for their learning, while providing a supportive environment in which they can thrive. Students appreciate these efforts and work hard in response; their feedback highlights the positive impact this approach has on their development as independent learners.

Dr Cristina Masters, School of Social Sciences, FHUM

Dr Cristina Masters is a lecturer in International Politics. Cristina is described as being a passionate, proactive, and supportive teacher who encourages her students to see the world differently.

She manages to do this whilst also empowering them as responsible learners and supporting them inside and outside the classroom.

She was responsible for planning and developing the new year- long study abroad programme for the undergraduate Politics and International Relations course; gave a very successful UG open day lecture; took part in the School's Question Time panel discussion; and hosted a workshop on toxic masculinity for a youth theatre group developing play on masculinity

Primarily Cristina was nominated because of her outstanding teaching as evidenced by the student feedback at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and in the wider context of Cristina's consistent delivery of very high quality teaching since 2006.

Dr Yang Han, School of Mathematics, FSE

Dr Yang Han was appointed as a lecturer in the School of Mathematics in August 2017- her first lectureship.

In the first semester of 2017-18 she was assigned to teach Statistical Inference. This was challenging as the class includes students from three different levels (3rd and 4th year undergraduates and MSc students) studying on a range of Mathematics degree programmes.

After some initial problems, Yang responded very positively to feedback from students and colleagues and she quickly created a module which, through her dynamic and innovative approach to teaching, students found highly interesting, stimulating and relevant to their overall studies in statistics.

Yang managed this in a remarkably short period of time – a matter of weeks -which is quite incredible given she was completely new to teaching.

It is not only her high quality of teaching that has been noticed, Yang's kind and thoughtful manner with all her students has also been often remarked on.

In addition, Yang successfully supervised the dissertation of an MSc student which helped that student to receive a Distinguished Achievement Award in the Postgraduate Taught student category (these students are awarded their medals in their December graduation ceremonies).