

Undergraduate Students of the Year 2019

The criteria against which nominations for the Undergraduate of the Year are judged state that:

“The nominee should have made an exceptional contribution to the life of the University, contributed significantly to the development of the curriculum or enhanced other students’ experience at University through activities such as peer support, student societies, or work with central services such as Recruitment and Admissions. Alternatively he or she should have coupled excellent academic achievement with either major external activity (top level sport or music) or have overcome major difficulties.”

Aisha Sooltangos, School of Medical Sciences, FBMH

Aisha Sooltangos has just completed her Medicine degree.

During the 2017-18 academic year Aisha was President of the Manchester Medical Research Student Society where she led a committee of 10 students to organise various local, national and international events. After an exceptional end-of-year report to the Academy of Medical Sciences, Aisha was selected to represent Manchester as one of only two Medical Schools at the national INSPIRE Conference. Her outstanding presentation earned her a place on the national INSPIRE Jury Panel as the only student representative, and enabled her to secure funding of £10,000 for the Medical Research Student Society.

In the same year, Aisha published her first peer-reviewed paper, as well as being Student Co-ordinator of the Peer Mentoring Scheme and the General Secretary of the Wellcome Trust’s National Student Association of Medical Research.

Amelia Halls, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, FHUMS

Amelia Halls has just completed her Archaeology degree.

In her TedXTeen Talk (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRo1RAkifXQ>) Amelia points to a simple paintbrush as a symbol of her strength and resilience. For though Amelia suffers from mental illness, she overcomes destructive coping strategies, such as self-harm, by painting and, in this case, painting on herself. Amelia’s eloquent TedX talk distinguishes her as overcoming major difficulties and having a significant external impact.

Her achievements within the University are just as exceptional; she achieves consistent academic excellence, which has been recognised externally with the award of ‘Global Winner’ for her Long Essay at the Global Undergraduate Awards 2018

She also makes a significant contribution to other students’ experiences through her involvement in the Peer Assisted Study Sessions (or PASS) Scheme, the Staff Student Liaison Committee and the Archaeology Society.

She also plays a leading role in extra-curricular initiatives such as the Experimental Archaeology group, and the Social Responsibility Funded Prehistory to Primary Project.

Rachana Halasabele, [School of Chemical Engineering & Analytical Science](#), FSE

Rachana Halasabele has just finished her Master of Engineering Chemical Engineering with industrial experience programme.

She is described as being excellent academically and a great contributor to her School, her peers, and the University.

Among other things, she acts as student representative giving constructive feedback and is an Institute of Chemical Engineering representative. Rachana has initiated a series of talks from industry and academics entitled 'Engineering Profiles' and has also found the time to volunteer as part of the Global Brigades team in South Honduras as well as for Trees for Cities and Night Shelter.

Rachana's passion and dedication to her studies, her efforts in enhancing the student experience, and her volunteering work makes her a very worthy recipient of this award.