



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leeds Arts University nominated for Times Higher Education Awards

Leeds Arts University has been nominated for two prestigious Times Higher Education awards, recognising the strategic planning and technical and digital innovation of the University's work.

The University has been nominated for two Times Higher Education Awards: the Outstanding Strategic Planning Team Award; and the Technical or Digital Innovation Award. The Outstanding Strategic Planning Award nomination is for the University's strategic re-structuring of its libraries, exhibitions and archives in order to support its practice-based research. The Technical or Digital Innovation Award nomination is for the dissemination of the University's research through open access technologies. Widely known as the "Oscars of higher education" these are the 15th annual Times Higher Education Awards, with 80 universities competing across 23 categories.

Prof. Randall Whittaker, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Academic, said: *"As we prepare for a first submission to the Research Excellence Framework 2021 these national award nominations are an excellent recognition of the environment and infrastructure we have developed for practice-based research. We have placed such research at the heart of our teaching and University strategy so for a small, specialist arts university to be acknowledged in this way is immensely satisfying."*

The University has integrated its curation, research and library services in order to ensure these areas intersect to support practice based research. For example, library staff curate the Library Interventions exhibitions programme and all exhibition proposals are now rigorously peer-reviewed by an International Advisory Board for Exhibitions, as academic journal articles would be.

The Leeds Arts University repository allows global access to the University's cutting-edge, practice-based research. The repository was developed in-conjunction with GuildHE Research, a consortium of small and specialist institutions, and allows best practice to be shared and innovative new ways of sharing research outputs to be explored. The University's repository helps unique practice-based research outputs (such as exhibitions and artefacts) to be shared globally.

THE editor John Gill said: *"The THE Awards hold a place in the hearts of many in UK higher education and have now been a fixture in the its calendar for well over a decade. This year we decided to incorporate the complementary strengths of our THE Leadership and Management Awards, so that the range of categories better reflects the reality of how universities operate today, and the interwoven nature of so much of what they do. This will be the biggest celebration of higher education that we have ever hosted."*

I am delighted to say that the 'Oscars of higher education' go from strength to strength. With 23 categories this year, we're also showcasing more exceptional stories than ever before, and it's a real honour for us to shine a spotlight on all those who have made it as far as these shortlists - their stories deserve much wider circulation."

-ENDS-

Editor's Notes

For more information, filming and image requests or to arrange interviews contact:

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About Leeds Arts University

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds Arts University has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. In 2016 the University was granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers, and in 2017 was awarded full university status, making it the only specialist arts university in the North of England.

Leeds Arts University has been recognised for its industry-standard facilities at the Whatuni awards (winners in 2014, 2016 and 2019 runner up 2017 and 2018). The University was also the winner of The Sunday Times 'University of the Year for Student Retention' 2019.

The University has recently opened £22m state-of-the-art building expansion at the Blenheim Walk site which includes a 230-seat performance auditorium and industry standard film and photography studios. The building will house the growing portfolio of opportunities for postgraduate study at Leeds Arts University, with a larger specialist arts research and reference library and a new postgraduate study suite.

www.leeds-art.ac.uk

Times Higher Education (THE) Awards

These are the 15th annual THE Awards, and the first to feature a range of categories covering all university activity under one banner - excellence will be recognised both in academia and across the professional services. For 2019, there are 23 categories in total - the highest number yet. The gala THE Awards ceremony is the biggest night of celebration in the UK HE calendar, and will take place at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane in London on Thursday 28 November 2019. The THE Awards are widely known as the "Oscars of higher education". Hundreds of entries came in from all corners of the UK, with nearly 80 institutions represented on the shortlists.

[THE Awards 2019](#)