

# Colleague Recognition Awards



<b>Category</b>	Partnership Award
<b>Nominee (s)</b>	Alison Thomson
<b>Individual or Team</b>	An individual
<b>School / Service</b>	Student Futures
<b>Nomination</b>	
<p>Alison Thomson is very approachable and patient. Alison is extremely knowledgeable and skilled in her role and always responds very promptly and clearly to emails. Usually my emails to Alison relate to complications or issues with student placement or ePAD and Alison is always resolves the situation. I know that Alison has regularly gone the extra mile to help or resolve these issues, and has stayed on late at times to ensure the best possible experience for students. I have always felt listened to and that my email/query is important. This is so valuable when facing issues I have no access / tools to deal with. My job would be so much harder without the patient skilled support Alison provides.</p> <p>In my role as midwifery lecturer, I connect with Alison whenever we have questions or issues with student placement or the electronic practice record document (eMPAD).</p> <p>I believe that Alison meets ALL the professional criteria. Alison is always very approachable and patient and so I always feel welcome to contact her. Alison's communication through both email and Teams is always clear, effective, and very professional yet approachable. Alison always promptly resolves the issues or informs me about how to do this. Alison has several times continued beyond her hours to resolve something promptly. Alison is very knowledgeable and always up to date in her knowledge. Alison is a great ambassador for the university in terms of the internal relationships as detailed above, but has also applied similar professional, approachable engagement with practice areas and other universities when we have been working out student transfers across areas or universities.</p> <p>I believe that Alison meets many of the inclusive criteria. Many of our communications involve direct communication with students with a diverse range of needs, concerns, or health issues. Alison engages with each student appropriately and acknowledges their individual situation with respect and seeks to find the best solution for them. Alison is proactive in setting up what students need in terms of placement or electronic records. When I joined the university 3 years ago, and first contacted Alison, she was very welcoming, patient with my many questions, and supported me in learning the systems.</p> <p>From what I have written above Alison clearly meets many of the Partnership and Student Experience criteria: strong working partnerships internally and externally; delivers outstanding service; develops strong networks across placement areas; overcoming challenges; positive engagement with students; clear focus on the student journey in the practice context; clear</p>	

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responsive and personalised support; proactive in making a positive impact to student experience.

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<p>Alison manages the clinical placements for our student midwives. She essentially takes a weight off our minds by ensuring each student is placed appropriately and can gain all the necessary experience required to register as a midwife. Many students have complex situations and their individual needs need to be taken into account. Alison accommodates students such as this with ease, furthermore her mastery over placing students appropriately ensures our programmes run smoothly. Although not a registered midwife, Alison is definitely a valued member of our team and I'm not sure that we could do her job.</p>	

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As part of the placement team, Alison's contribution and support to both nursing and midwifery programmes have been invaluable over the years, not only supporting students in their placements but also staff.	

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<b>Individual or Team</b>	An individual
<b>School / Service</b>	Student Futures
<b>Nomination</b>	
<p>Alison has a very difficult, demanding role in our school. she also has the job of allocating placements to our students across 5 programmes and elective choices.</p> <p>Alison is always approachable, cheery and friendly, never complaining or annoyed regardless of all the changes and requests directed at her.</p> <p>I know that she works longer than her hours if necessary to get the job done and I also do not know how good i would be at my role without her.</p> <p>Alison deserves high praise and recognition and i sincerely hope she will be successful in her recognition this year.</p> <p>I would like to add that Alison meets all the criteria for the professional award:</p> <p>Regardless of time Alison takes professional responsibility for her role, often achieving her goals ahead of schedule and in her own time.</p> <p>Alison has taken on specialist knowledge of a new software that we are using and is very knowledgeable and skilled when support is needed for staff and students.</p> <p>Alison is always fair minded and logical, ensuring that the students have a consistent experience and know that they are getting the best available.</p> <p>Alison not only works with the midwifery team on campus she is directly involved in negotiations with our outside partners, for example 5 different health boards. Every team feeds back how expert, helpful and accommodating Alison is. She maintains a successful professional relationship with all levels of staff through excellent communication and demonstrating her vast knowledge of processes and barriers and can be very inventive, suggesting solutions when no-one else can see them.</p> <p>Alison is a successful ambassador for the Midwifery team, Nursing colleagues and through her skills at negotiating with our vital outside partners. She is truly a professional and valued colleague.</p>	

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<b>Individual or Team</b>	An individual
<b>School / Service</b>	Student Futures;
<b>Nomination</b>	
Alison contributes to partnership working in the SHSC with our students and NHS colleagues. Without her professionalism, knowledge and strategic view of our needs, our student and partner experience would be greatly reduced. The team have nominated Alison on several occasions and it would be wonderful to see her get the recognition she deserves.	

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<b>Category</b>	Partnership Award
<b>Nominee (s)</b>	Anita Ogilvie, Andrew McKendrick
<b>Individual or Team</b>	A team
<b>School / Service</b>	Strategy and Planning;
<b>Nomination</b>	
<p>I am nominating Anita Ogilvie and Andrew McKendrick for the Partnership award and the work they undertook with internal and external stakeholders to successfully plan and deliver the University's new international centre. The Edinburgh Napier University International Centre is a major university project and has involved colleagues from across the institution in its delivery (these colleagues, too many to mention in a single nomination, should also be commended). This project was strategic in its importance for the University, large in scope, complex in its delivery and delivered within a very short time frame, thanks to the efforts of Anita and Andrew who built strong relationships with internal and external stakeholders. Amongst key achievements from my perspective include the record turnaround time in securing approval from the Home Office to open the centre, which enabled the University to plan for a January 2024 intake, in addition to the necessary internal academic approvals. The efforts to navigate and prepare plans, documentation and processes have been significant and shouldn't be underestimated. They also successfully identified and delivered on the space needed to accommodate the College in Merchiston - where there are well known space bottleneck challenges - in collaboration with Schools and Services. This includes demonstrating incredible flexibility at short notice to adapt plans when circumstances changed at short notice, with the support of wider colleagues.</p>	

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<b>Category</b>	Partnership Award
<b>Nominee (s)</b>	Prof. Jane Ali-Knight
<b>Individual or Team</b>	An individual
<b>School / Service</b>	The Business School;
<b>Nomination</b>	
<p>Prof. Jane Ali-Knight has been at the forefront of Edinburgh Napier's Festival and Event Management work for more than 20 years. Jane's work now revolves around partnerships. She creates collaborations with industry partners, develops research projects that span continents, and forges networks across the institution. Working with Jane means being introduced to a wide range of people, which opens opportunities, expands the scope and potential of projects, and leaves a legacy of stronger ties. Jane is a key figure for the Tourism subject group and its engagement with our key communities: from local festival and event producers, to government agencies and public sector bodies.</p> <p>Important examples of Jane's work include the well-established "Destination Leaders' Programme", where dozens of tourism professionals have worked with Edinburgh Napier to develop their careers, ideas and, ultimately, the industry. Jane also co-leads collaborations with the British Council, which have led to numerous arts and culture professionals travelling to Edinburgh to experience the city, learn from industry leaders, and build their own connections and partnerships.</p> <p>Jane sits on many boards and panels. She is Chair of the Hidden Door Festival, supporting their volunteer team to deliver one of Edinburgh's most innovative, creative and exciting festivals. Jane is also a leading figure within the British Arts Festivals Association, championing their work to engage with education, and thus benefiting the whole HE sector.</p> <p>There is always an opportunity to develop academic outputs from Jane's work. She initiates, publishes and edits work on a wide range of themes, supporting colleagues and students at Napier and elsewhere to promote their interests and abilities. In recent years she has developed modules in collaboration with other Schools, benefiting students across the institution. Jane has taken students to Malawi in support of the Lake of Stars Festival, where they were given responsibility to work with the local team in delivering one of the country's premier festivals. During Covid, Jane worked with students in the Edinburgh Napier Events Society to deliver an online academic conference, that helped to maintain the community of researchers in our field.</p> <p>Personally, I have a lot to be grateful to Jane for. She was my main support when I first worked for Edinburgh Napier part time in c. 2005, and then drew my attention to the opportunity to join full time in 2007. Jane has supported my research projects, putting me in touch with industry partners, editors and other supporters of my work. She was instrumental in my PhD, helping to set it up with an overseas university, and then acting as a PhD supervisor through the process.</p>	



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I believe that Jane takes a professional pride in seeking, creating and maintaining partnerships. It plays to her strengths as a creative, nurturing and charismatic individual. Edinburgh Napier is lucky to have had Jane on board over the years. I'm sure that she does more than any one other person fully appreciates, and it would be fitting for the university to recognise this in the 2024 Colleague Recognition Awards.