

SCONUL Library Design Awards 2019: Call for submissions

The SCONUL Library Design Awards aim to showcase and celebrate the very best in recent UK academic library design. Library space and the academic library as "place" continue to be highly valued and of key significance to the standing and reputation of our institutions; our library users continue to demonstrate, through both use and demand, the important part that the physical library plays in their experience of and engagement with their learning and research. The SCONUL Library Design Awards offer a unique opportunity to recognise high quality, innovative library design which delivers effective and accessible learning environments for our University communities.

Timing

This is the formal call for submissions which should be submitted by **Monday 26th November 2018**. Submissions should be sent to Ruth Stubbings, Deputy Director of SCONUL, at ruth.stubbings@sconul.ac.uk. The panel of judges will carefully evaluate all submissions and shortlist a select group of buildings to visit. As we hope to see the designs in action, visits by the judging panel to the shortlisted libraries will take place in March and April. During the judging process we expect to hear from students on their experience of the new space.

A Design Awards event will take place in September 2019 and the winner will be announced at the event.

Criteria and eligibility

There will be two categories of award: Small (under 2,000 square metres) and medium/large (2,000 square metres or greater). All types of building projects (new buildings, extensions, conversions and refurbishments) will be eligible. Any library, learning centre or learning resource centre which a SCONUL member library manages is eligible. Projects completed between 1st January 2015 and 1st January 2018 are eligible to submit their development.

Detailed criteria

The broad themes to be considered are: Strategic alignment, design, and transformation. In evaluation of the criteria, judges will consider the broad range of users and stakeholders.

The judges will consider users to be all those actively using the building and resources within. Though undergraduate students are likely to be the largest single user group for many institutions, we will also consider how other user groups -- researchers, academic and library staff, for instance -- benefit from the library design.

Stakeholders are those who may not directly use the library, but who have a stake in the success of the design. This may include university senior managers, the estates department, the local community and others.

As always, the judging process will evaluate how the building design delivers an effective learning environment for its users rather than any single or unique focus on perceived architectural merit.

Strategic alignment (400 words - 20 marks)

How does the development contribute to the strategy for the institution?

- Are the relevant strategies clearly described in the submission?
- How does the development strategically impact on teaching and learning?
- What evidence is provided to demonstrate the link between the development and the institutional strategies?

How does it help to articulate the vision for development of the library service?

- Is the vision clearly described in the submission?
- What evidence is provided to demonstrate the link between the development and the vision?
- Has the development delivered the vision for the library service?

Design (800 words - 40 marks)

How have the stakeholders and users contributed to your development?

- Who are the stakeholders and users?
- How were they engaged in the design and planning of the build?
- How has this influenced the development?

How does the design meet the objectives of the development?

- What is the evidence to show how the objectives of the development have been met?
- How was this measured?

How has the design enabled innovation, or has the potential to enable innovation? This could be for the institution or the wider sector.

- What is the evidence to show how the design has been innovative?

Transformation (800 words - 40 marks)

How has the design facilitated service redesign and innovation (this could be for the institution or the wider sector and how will it enable future flexibility and adaptability)?

- Has the design enabled service redesign and innovation? How has the success of this been measured?
- Has the project facilitated innovation across the university (e.g. in teaching & learning, in use of space elsewhere etc.)?
- What new services have been implemented because of the project?

How does the development support its stakeholders and users in achieving their objectives and those anticipated in the future?

- What was the process for post occupancy evaluation of the project? Did the development meet its initial objectives? How do you know this is the case?
- How has the opinion of the stakeholders and users been sought in assessing the success of the project? What were their views? Were there added benefits not envisaged at the planning stage of the development?
- Has the evaluation(s) influenced the development after implementation?
- How does the development allow for future innovation?

Your submission

The word limit for submissions is 2,000 (see word counts in criteria section above) and should address the detailed criteria listed above as appropriate to the development. Up to three text based appendices are permitted, but these should clearly support your submission and we would expect to see direct references to any appendices in the text.

In addition submissions must include between five and ten high-resolution images (minimum 600 dpi resolution). These images should be complemented with an annotation or description (i.e. what the image illustrates) and should be shared with the understanding that they may be used on our website, at the design awards event, and in other promotional materials.

If you have produced a promotional video about your design project, then please also include a link to the video file as further additional evidence.

Please ensure appropriate permissions for use of images and films are attained.

All those making submissions are strongly encouraged to add details of their design project to the [Designing Libraries](http://www.designinglibraries.org.uk) website. This allows for greater visibility of your project and also enables a portfolio of best practice in library design on the site. The section for library projects is here: <http://www.designinglibraries.org.uk/index.asp?PageID=676>. It is easy to request a submission form by following the link to 'How to submit or amend a record'.

As indicated we anticipate visiting short-listed libraries in March and April 2019. Please include spring term dates in your submission so we can schedule the visit during term time.

The **deadline for submissions is Monday 26 November 2018**. All submissions should be sent to Ruth Stubbings, Deputy Director of SCONUL, at ruth.stubbings@sconul.ac.uk