

CULTURE AND CREATIVITY AWARD



CLEMENCE LEBATTEUX
University of Roehampton, London

Clémence Lebatteux is a renowned screenwriter, who has worked on several TV shows (Skam France, Germinal) and feature films selected in festivals. Being able to study Creative Writing – that doesn't exist in France – in the country that creates the best tv shows was truly groundbreaking to her and a strong asset for her now. She has used this knowledge to find a different approach to her craft and is working on creating her own tv series and writing on coproduction. She belongs to several groups and unions, and she stays in touch with the new generation of screenwriters, teaching what she learnt at Roehampton.



IGLIKA NIKOLOVA-STOUPAK
University of Essex

Iglia Nikolova-Stoupak is a postgraduate researcher in the field of Natural Language Processing in the University of Lorraine, France. She produces academic studies and attends international conferences on topics such as: multilingual translation; manuscripts and stemmatology; and literary adaptation. Iglia judges that her education in the UK has equipped her with all the vital skills to perform her current activity. In particular, her humanity-related degrees from the University of Essex have made her an eloquent writer and creative researcher, and her Computing degree from Staffordshire University has made her a professional programmer. Iglia hopes to continue working in academia whilst continuing to address relevant topics within Natural Language Processing and, hopefully, continuing to experience different countries and cultures.



FANNI SÜTŐ
University of Roehampton, London

Fanni Sütő is a teacher, storyteller, writer, and translator whose multifaceted work aims to educate, connect, and bring people together through language and stories. As a writer, she represented Hungary at the EU-China Literary Festival, showcasing her country's creativity and cultural heritage. Her UK education gave her mastery of English, insight into multiculturalism, and the resilience to thrive independently.

Today, Fanni uses her multicultural awareness and empathy to teach diverse audiences and tell stories that foster understanding and connection.

BUSINESS AND INNOVATION AWARD



DEBORA COMPARIN
Cranfield University

Debora Comparin is a Standardization Expert at Thales and the Chair of the OSIA Initiative at the Secure Identity Alliance (SIA). She is a strong advocate for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.9 'Identity for all by 2030' and in 2018 she founded the OSIA initiative, a digital public good designed to facilitate the implementation of national identity infrastructures by governments. Debora oversees the initiative, guiding its open source reference implementation developed in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Debora began her career as a graduate engineer at SAFRAN, where she served as the seconded representative at the Aerospace Growth Partnership (AGP), a public-private sector partnership established to secure the future of the UK aerospace sector. She is a frequent speaker on the interplay of standardization with open source software in the context of digital government infrastructures, open standards for digital identity, and interoperability. Debora holds an MSc in Thermal Power from Cranfield University and an MSc in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Padova.



TIPHAINÉ MACKAY
University College Birmingham

Tiphaine Mackay leads the International Team at Groupe Adiona, specialising in guiding students and Graduates through the UK GAE visa process for internships. She provides expert, tailored support, ensuring students navigate visa requirements smoothly and successfully embark on international career opportunities. Tiphaine plays a key role in strengthening ties between France and the UK, empowering students to pursue internships abroad. Her work contributes to a new generation of global professionals, ready to thrive in a connected and evolving world. Tiphaine seeks to expand her outreach to educational institutions while engaging with the British Council as an alumnus to promote the UK's opportunities and inspire students through her own study abroad experience.



ALEXIS MURAT
City, University of London

Alexis Murat has revolutionised industries with easyVirtual.tours, democratizing VR across sectors like tourism and hospitality. He has helped over 1,200 businesses, including Carrefour, digitize and increase revenues by 14%. By launching the world's first VR franchise model, Alexis has empowered global entrepreneurs and driven innovation while creating opportunities for disabled individuals. His UK degree provided him with vital financial and leadership skills that have been essential for scaling his businesses. Winning the "Pitch It Easy" competition opened doors to global mentorship and funding, while the university's incubator taught him the foundations of entrepreneurship. The network he built during his time in the UK has been invaluable, and they even established offices in the UK, leveraging the strong connections and resources available there.

SOCIAL ACTION AWARD



ZUHAIR IMRAN
Durham University

Zuhair Imran is a seasoned communications professional with extensive experience in the development, healthcare, and education sectors. He played a pivotal role in driving awareness and engagement for the poverty alleviation program leading to enrolling millions of deserving households across Pakistan. Zuhair Imran reflects on the profound impact Durham University has had on his professional career. At Durham, he developed practical skills that combined academic rigor, global exposure, and a strong emphasis on real-world application. Zuhair Imran is now leveraging his expertise to teach and mentor undergraduate and postgraduate students at leading universities in Paris and the UK, while also doing consulting assignments in communications.



MAUD LEPAON
City, University of London

As a Monitoring and Rights Project Coordinator at the Rainforest Foundation UK, Maud leads projects in Cameroon and Kenya, supporting indigenous communities in securing land and forestry rights, addressing gender-based violence, and challenging exploitative industries. Her work impacts thousands, amplifying their voices in national and international policy discussions for stronger land tenure rights. Through her experiences and her work, she helps young people to feel legitimate to take part in international discussions on climate change. During her time at City, Maud learned how to conduct thorough research, analyse complex policy frameworks, and create strategic advocacy plan. She values the opportunity that while studying in the UK she could engage with a highly diverse and international community as well as acquiring skills, knowledge, and networks to create meaningful impact in human rights and environmental advocacy, amplifying marginalized voices and driving positive change globally.



SONIA ZDOROVTZOFF
University of Essex

As Deputy Mayor in Lyon, she pursues an international policy based on four pillars: the fight against climate change, interculturality, international solidarity and the internationality of Lyon. This policy is embodied through some twenty city-to-city partnerships and an active participation in numerous networks, including Eurocities, which Lyon co-founded in 1986 with five other cities. A graduate of Sciences Po Grenoble and the University of Essex in England, Sonia Zdorovtsoff has a dual education in European Union law and economics and a specialized master's degree in international human rights law. She has been working alongside the most vulnerable for many years: she has defended children's rights in Brussels, women's and girls' rights in Palestine and worked to improve the involvement of victims of torture in the proceedings of the International Criminal Court.

SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY AWARD



RAUL GONZALEZ MUÑOZ
Cranfield University

Raúl González Muñoz is one of the leading experts in the European Space domain and its importance as a driver for Europe's Strategic Autonomy. Raúl's work across industry, institutions and academia has allowed him to federate and connect the diverse landscape that it's the space ecosystem in Europe, with the aim of developing common roadmaps and strategies that will allow Europeans to compete in space in an increasingly multipolar world. Raúl states that Cranfield University showed him how to effectively bridge the gap between academia, industry and policy-making, thanks to its dynamic approach to academic research projects. Raúl has created a network spanning the five main space faring nations in Europe, providing advice to policy makers and support to European New Space startups.



HARALD JOSET
Cranfield University

The master Harald achieved in the UK opened the door of aviation and he became quickly a serious candidate through this solid background. He could join a major company (Air France) and even improve his skills in aeronautics. Pushed by this momentum, he has decided to become a private pilot (achieved since 2020) and learn more about himself and how to fly a plane. It was something impossible for him because in Madagascar they only see the planes flying in the sky and he made his maiden flight at the age of 18 only. Become more and more confident, he has decided to teach aeronautics, especially aeroengines. They give the basics of aero engines to the new persons joining the company (every month during 4 years for approximately 20 people per course). So, he has decided to become a lecturer for engineering schools in France. Since 2020 he is in charge of Engine Maintenance at EPF (30 students and 10 hours per year). Since 2022 he held the same position at ESTACA but with lecture in French and in English (50 students and 24 hours per year).



DAPHNE TUNCER
University College London

Daphne Tuncer leads research in computer science at Ecole nationale des ponts et chaussees, Institut Polytechnique de Paris. Daphne's work investigates how to develop digital technologies for the energy and mobility sectors that are adapted to people's needs. Daphne observes that studying at UCL was fundamental for her academic career: research excellence, international collaborations and striving to make impact beyond the lab.

Daphne is now taking her skills and expertise to train a new generation of practitioners and researchers, both in France and in the UK, to tackle the upcoming challenges of a digitalised world.