



# Green Gown Awards International

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

## **Can students solve our problems?**

**A new Award for university students solving the world big problems has just found winners in the UK and Fiji.**

**The winners of the International Green Gown Awards were announced on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges' (EAUC) Annual Conference which took place at Lancaster University, United Kingdom. Winning tertiary education institutions from the regional awards in the: United Kingdom and Ireland; Australasia; French speaking regions in Europe and Canada; and the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) Green Gown Awards supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), went head-to-head to win these coveted International Green Gown Awards.**

**University of the West of England, Bristol (UK & Ireland)** won the Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change Award with "Positive Footprint: Phase 2" and their inspiring project detailing their sustainability action plan from 2013-2020; **Fiji National University, Fiji (Pacific)** was awarded the Community Award for their "Our Climate-Smart Landscapes" project outlining watershed protection using agroforestry systems and soil conservation; and the Student Engagement Award went to a joint venture between the **University of the West of England, Bristol and the University of Bristol (UK & Ireland)** with their powerful cross university and cross sector partnership programme "Green Capital: Student Capital - Unleashing the power of Bristol's Students".

The bilingual Ceremony, hosted by Pauline Pingusson, Chef de projet Campus Responsables and delivery partner for Les Trophées des campus responsables, and Leanne Denby, President of ACTS and delivery partner for the Green Gown Awards Australasia, crowned the International Green Gown Awards winners with a video recording of the event available to the non-attending worldwide finalists.

A snapshot of what the judges thought about the International Green Gown Award Winners:

**University of the West of England, Bristol (UK & Ireland), Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change Award with "Positive Footprint: Phase 2"**. Judges liked this application for its three strong facets: structure, scope and students! With its scale of impact it epitomised a whole institutional-wide approach, embracing all aspects and making it a very worthy winner. With strong methodologies and

best practice across the sector, testing new approaches and activities, it offered an array of elements for global replication.”

**Fiji National University, Fiji (Pacific), Community Award with “Our climate-smart landscapes: watershed protection using agroforestry systems and soil conservation to enhance community resilience to climate change in six upper watershed communities in Ba (Viti Levu) Fiji Islands”.** Judges thought this was a superb example of empowering a community and respecting and making use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices. Intelligent, local-based action promoted in the local community.

**University of the West of England, Bristol and the University of Bristol (UK & Ireland), Student Engagement Award with “Green Capital: Student Capital - Unleashing the power of Bristol’s Students”.** Judges thought this a dynamic city-wide project that had it all with high levels of student engagement, curricular and extra-curricular activity, and a direct impact on graduate employability. It clearly demonstrates a sustainable model for student engagement and is a very worthy winner. Partnership is the new leadership.”

More details on each of these remarkable projects, together with the full judges’ comments are to be found in the International Green Gown Awards Winners’ Brochure at [www.greengownawards.org](http://www.greengownawards.org).

The International Green Gown Awards and UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards are delivered by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) and its Chief Executive, Iain Patton, describes the importance of the International Green Gown Awards, *“We have to find new ways of showing the world the power of education as a solution to our social and economic problems. These Awards tell the story of how young people are not only wanting to make the world a better place but rolling their sleeves up and doing it.”*

The French-speaking Green Gown Awards is open to all French speaking universities and colleges, schools and specialised institutes in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and French-speaking Canada. Pauline Pingusson from Campus Responsables, delivery partner for the French-speaking Green Gown Awards, says *“Since 2014, Campus Responsables has been delivering the French-Speaking edition of the Green Gown Awards. French-speaking campuses are proud to be part of the Green Gown Awards community and to share their actions within this global movement. Thanks to the Awards, their ongoing efforts and meaningful impacts are widely known, shared and recognised.”*

The Australasia Green Gown Awards, delivered by Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) since 2010, President Leanne Denby says *“ACTS is delighted to be a part of the International Green Gown Awards; a truly fabulous mechanism for recognising and rewarding the excellent work of institutions from across the globe. The Awards highlight the amazing efforts of the sector, demonstrating that tertiary education is committed to sustainability and plays an important role in changing unsustainable paradigms and thinking.”*

Building on this momentum, and the signing of a unique agreement with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), this expanded the International Green Gown Awards further across

the globe with an emphasis on profiling and learning from the Southern Hemisphere. The Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) Green Gown Awards were launched in 2016 and this exciting partnership has put universities and colleges as leaders in sustainability as well as being able to continue their learning from global leaders. Jaime Alexandra Webbe, Chief, Environmental Education and Training Unit, UN Environment says *"The UN Environment Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) network of over 800 universities and colleges is excited to recognise exceptional higher education institutions as leaders in sustainability. The GUPES Green Gown Awards provide an opportunity to learn from global leaders in higher education sustainability while inspiring others in the sector to promote innovation, commitment and passion for a sustainable future."*

The International Green Gown Awards recognise exceptional sustainability initiatives being undertaken by further and higher education institutions. The Awards are judged by an esteemed panel of sector representatives and experts in their own field. The judging criteria is based on the sustainability projects as a whole with the deciding factor being the project with the largest scale of impact.

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**Notes to the Editor: International Green Gown Awards & UK Green Gown Awards Media**

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## **International Green Gown Awards 2016 –**

### **An overview of International Winners and Finalists:**

#### **Continuous Improvement: Institutional Change**

University of the West of England, Bristol (United Kingdom) – *International Winner*

##### **Finalists**

INP Ensat (France)

University of Technology Sydney (Australasia)

#### **Community**

Fiji National University, Fiji (Pacific) – *International Winner*

##### **Finalists**

Burgundy School of Business (France)

The University of Queensland (Australasia)

Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador (Latin America)

University of Salford (United Kingdom)

#### **Student Engagement**

University of the West of England, UWE and University of Bristol (United Kingdom) – *International Winner*

##### **Finalists**

Aix Marseille University (France)

Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden (Europe)

Glasgow School of Art (Small Institution) (United Kingdom)

University of British Columbia, Canada (North America)

University of Waikato, New Zealand (Australasia)

#### **About the International Green Gown Awards:**

The Green Gown Awards are delivered on a regional basis in Australasia, United Kingdom and Ireland, French-speaking Europe and Canada and in 6 of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) regions via the GUPES Green Gown Awards. The winners of each region go head to head for the coveted International Green Gown Awards. The Green Gown Awards were founded by HEEPI (UK), and are administered by an International Steering Group. The Green Gown Awards open regionally in the spring of each year. Further information is available on each regional website accessed via the main website: <http://www.greengownawards.org/> .

Visit the showcase of 500+ case studies and videos from past Green Gown Awards' winners, highly commended and finalists [http://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/green\\_gown\\_awards1](http://www.sustainabilityexchange.ac.uk/green_gown_awards1)

#### **About the EAUC (UK):**

The UK Green Gown Awards and the International Green Gown Awards are delivered by the EAUC. With a membership of over 230 universities and colleges, the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC) is the sustainability champion for universities and colleges in the UK. Run by members, for its members, the EAUC seeks to work with members and partners to drive sustainability to the heart of further and higher education. For more information, visit [www.eauc.org.uk](http://www.eauc.org.uk).

#### **About ACTS (Australasia):**

The Australasian Green Gown Awards are managed by Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS) and are governed by a cross sector steering group. ACTS is a non-profit member based organisation representing higher and further education institutions within Australia and New Zealand. ACTS aim to inspire, promote and support change towards best practice sustainability within the operations, curriculum and research of the tertiary education sector. Further information at <http://www.acts.asn.au/>. ACTS best practice portal: [www.acts.asn.au/initiatives/ggaa/sharing-awards-success/](http://www.acts.asn.au/initiatives/ggaa/sharing-awards-success/)

#### **About Campus Responsables (Francophone):**

The French speaking Green Gown Awards, Les Trophées des campus responsables, are delivered by Campus Responsables. This network was created in 2006 to encourage and assist integration of sustainable development into educational institutions programs and the management of their infrastructure. Campus Responsables is the first network of universities and colleges focussing on sustainable development, with 40 member initiative institutions throughout France and Belgium. Campus Responsables network is also working with our partners at [UNICA](#) as part of their [UGAF \(UNICA Green Academic Footprint\)](#) initiative. UNICA is a network of 46 universities from 35 capital cities of Europe, with a combined strength of over 150,000 staff and 1,800,000 students. Further information at <http://www.campusresponsables.com/>

#### **About GUPES (GUPES):**

The GUPES Green Gown Awards are supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) and is open to GUPES members. Membership to GUPES is free of charge and you can join. Each GUPES region has selected a category that is most appropriate for their region taking into consideration of initiatives that are taking place within institutions within their region: Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; North America; and West Asia.  
<http://www.greengownawards.org/gupes-green-gown-awards>

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