

STUDENT AWARDS, HONOURS & HOLISTIC RECOGNITION POLICY

Responsibility for execution of this Policy lies with the Registrar.

Approved by the Academic Council in its 47th Meeting held on 08.05.2026

1. Purpose

1.1 This Policy establishes a comprehensive, structured, and transparent framework for recognising outstanding student achievement at UPES across holistic dimensions — including academic excellence, culture, sports, research, leadership, innovation, and societal contribution.

1.2 The Policy is anchored in the University's philosophy that holistic development is central to the UPES student experience. Excellence must be recognised across multiple dimensions, not academic performance alone.

1.3 The Policy seeks to:

- Promote academic excellence and recognise meritorious achievement in all spheres.
- Encourage holistic student development through recognition of contributions in sports, cultural activities, leadership, research, innovation, and social engagement — with holistic criteria applied specifically to the Gold Medal, University All-Round Excellence Medal and other awards.
- Institutionalise a structured system of awards, medals, honours, and recognitions across the student lifecycle.
- Establish both annual recognition mechanisms and graduation-level honours, ensuring continuous motivation and recognition.
- Ensure fairness, transparency, consistency, and credibility in award selection processes.
- Promote a culture of aspiration, excellence, and institutional pride.

2. Scope and Applicability

2.1 This Policy applies to all Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Doctoral (PhD) students enrolled at UPES.

2.2 The provisions apply to students enrolled in regular and online programmes wherever applicable.

2.3 This Policy governs all institutional awards, medals, honours, and certificates of recognition conferred under its framework.

2.4 Awards under this Policy may be conferred at the end of an academic year or at the time of graduation or convocation.

3. Award Philosophy & Minimum Eligibility

3.1 Holistic evaluation — considering a student's record across culture, sports, research, and leadership alongside academic performance — shall apply exclusively to the University All-Round Excellence Medal (Section 5) and the Gold Medal (Section 6). All other awards under this Policy are evaluated on the criteria specific to each award as set out in the relevant section.

3.2 Minimum Eligibility Conditions applicable to all awards under this Policy:

Condition	Requirement
Minimum CGPA	8.5 and above (or as specified in the relevant award section)
Discipline	No disciplinary cases or misconduct proceedings during the relevant period
Attendance	No attendance shortage during the relevant period
Programme Completion	Completion within prescribed duration (for graduation awards)

3.3 Where a specific award sets a higher CGPA bar, the higher bar shall apply.

4. Institutional Awards Framework

4.1 UPES adopts a dual recognition framework: Graduation Honours and Annual Recognition (Year-on-Year Excellence).

4.2 Institutional hierarchy of awards and recognition:

Tier	Award Category	Level	Nature
Tier 1	University All-Round Excellence Medal (Gold, Silver, Bronze)	University	Holistic
Tier 2	Gold Medal (Best Student — UG & PG per School)	School	Holistic
Tier 3	Silver Medal (Best Student — UG & PG per School)	School	Academic (CGPA)
Tier 4	Dean's List (Annual Academic Recognition)	School	Academic (CGPA)
Tier 5	10/10 CGPA Scholarship	University	Academic (CGPA)
Tier 6	Innovation & Entrepreneurship Excellence Award	University	Performance-based
Tier 7	Annual Cultural & Sports Recognition	School / University	Performance-based
Tier 8	PhD Research Excellence Awards	University	Research-based
Tier 9	Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award	University	Achievement-based

5. University All-Round Excellence Medal

5.1 The University All-Round Excellence Medal is the highest holistic recognition conferred by UPES. It recognises students who have excelled across academics, culture, sports, research, and leadership throughout their programme.

5.2 Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum CGPA of 8.5.
- No disciplinary case or misconduct proceedings during the programme.
- No attendance shortage during the programme.
- Completion of the programme within the prescribed duration.
- Demonstrated sustained engagement across at least two non-academic categories: culture, sports, research, leadership, innovation, NSS/NCC, or institutional representation.

5.3 Evaluation Criteria

Component	Weightage
Academic Performance (CGPA)	60%
Sports & Cultural Achievements	20%
Leadership, Research, Social Contribution & Discipline	20%

5.4 Award Structure

- One University Gold All-Round Excellence Medal — conferred upon the highest-ranked eligible student across the University.
- One University Silver All-Round Excellence Medal — conferred upon the second-ranked eligible student.
- One University Bronze All-Round Excellence Medal — conferred upon the third-ranked eligible student.

5.5 University Awards Committee (Selection)

5.5.1 The University Awards Committee shall be the apex body for all University-level awards.

Role	Member
Chairperson	Vice Chancellor
Secretary	Registrar
Member	Head — Student Engagement and Experience
Member	Head — Sports
Members	Two nominees of the Vice Chancellor

5.6 School-Level Committee (Recommendations)

5.6.1 Each School shall constitute a School Awards Committee to shortlist and recommend candidates for University-level holistic awards. The School Committee shall send its recommendations to the University Awards Committee, which shall take the final decision on who receives a medal.

Role	Member
Chairperson	Dean of the School
Member	School Representative — Student Affairs
Member	School Representative — Sports / Culture
Central Observer	One nominee of the Vice-Chancellor — appointed as Central Observer across all School Committees to ensure consistency, fairness, and policy compliance.

5.6.2 The School Committee shall evaluate student records, verify eligibility, and forward ranked recommendations to the University Awards Committee. The University Awards Committee shall make the final selection.

5.7 Tie-Breaking Criteria

- Higher CGPA shall prevail.
- If still tied, attendance record shall be considered.
- If still tied, disciplinary standing and institutional contribution shall be considered.
- Final decision shall rest with the University Awards Committee.

6. Gold Medal — Best Student of School

6.1 Gold Medal shall be awarded to the best graduating student in each School, separately for UG and PG programmes. The award recognises the highest-performing student evaluated in a holistic context.

6.2 Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum CGPA of 8.5.
- No disciplinary case, attendance shortage, backlog, F grade, or improvement examination.
- Completion of programme within minimum prescribed duration.
- Holistic profile considered — engagement in culture, sports, research, or leadership is valued.
- Where the top-ranked student is already receiving the All-Round Excellence Gold Medal, the next best eligible student in the School shall receive the Gold Medal.

6.3 Merit shall be determined on final CGPA up to the third decimal point.

6.4 Evaluation Criteria

Component	Weightage
Academic Performance (CGPA)	60%
Sports & Cultural Achievements	20%
Leadership, Research, Social Contribution & Discipline	20%

7. Silver Medal — Best Student of the Programme

7.1 Silver Medal shall be awarded to the next highest-ranking eligible graduating student in each School after the Gold Medal recipient, separately for UG and PG programmes. The Silver Medal is awarded purely on academic merit, with no holistic component.

7.2 Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum CGPA of 8.5.
- No disciplinary case, attendance shortage, backlog, F grade, or improvement examination.
- Completion of programme within minimum prescribed duration.
- Merit determined on final CGPA up to the third decimal point — no holistic evaluation applies.
- If the top-ranked student is already receiving the All-Round Excellence Gold Medal or University Gold Medal, the next best eligible student shall be considered.

7.3 Selection Basis

Selection shall be based 100% on final CGPA. No weightage is assigned to extracurricular, cultural, sports, leadership, or other non-academic criteria for this award.

8. Dean's List

8.1 The Dean's List is an annual academic recognition conferred in every School to honour students who demonstrate consistent academic excellence. It is awarded every year across all Schools.

8.2 The Dean's List is a School-administered recognition. Each School has full authority and responsibility to institute and run its Dean's List independently. The Dean's List is not subject to review or approval by the University Awards Committee. The respective Dean shall be solely responsible for its implementation within their School.

8.3 Schools shall award the Dean's List at their Annual School Event each academic year.

8.4 Eligibility Criteria

- Minimum CGPA of 8.5.
- Top 5% of the cohort in the relevant academic year.
- No attendance shortage during the relevant academic year.
- No disciplinary case or misconduct proceedings.
- No F grade, backlog, or improvement examination during the relevant period.
- Completion of all registered courses in the relevant academic year.

Note: The Dean's List carries no holistic component. Selection is based solely on the academic criteria above.

8.5 Recognition

- Certificate of Recognition issued by the School.
- Inclusion in official University records.
- A Letter of Appreciation shall be sent to the parents or guardians and Principal of respective students' school of all Dean's List awardees, carrying a personal gratitude note from the Dean acknowledging the student's achievement and the family's contribution to their success.
- Recognition every year during the Annual School Event / awards ceremony.

9. 10/10 CGPA Scholarship

9.1 A dedicated scholarship shall be constituted for students who achieve a perfect 10/10 CGPA in any semester during their programme at UPES.

9.2 The University shall define the quantum of the scholarship, the terms and conditions for continuation, and the operational procedures in consultation with the Finance Office, and shall place the same for approval by the Vice Chancellor.

9.3 The scholarship recognises and incentivises academic excellence of the highest order and shall be a mark of institutional pride.

9.4 The University shall ensure the scholarship is formally instituted and notified within each academic year.

10. Innovation & Entrepreneurship Excellence Award

10.1 This Award shall recognise students demonstrating exceptional innovation, entrepreneurship, startup creation, and problem-solving.

10.2 The award may be conferred at the University's annual Start-Up Day celebration, providing a visible and aspirational platform for entrepreneurial recognition.

10.3 Eligibility Criteria

- The student must have created or co-created a startup, product, solution, social enterprise, patent, or innovation project.
- Must be enrolled in a regular UPES programme at the time of nomination or graduating in convocation of that specific year.
- No major disciplinary action on record.
- No attendance shortage during the relevant academic year.

The student may be considered based on one or more of the following:

- Startup creation or incubation.
- Product or solution development.
- Funding, grants, or external recognition.
- Social or commercial impact.
- Patent filing or intellectual property creation.
- Participation in national or international innovation competitions.

10.4 Award Structure

- One University-level Innovation & Entrepreneurship Excellence Award shall be conferred annually.
- The award shall take the form of a Certificate of Excellence and a trophy or plaque as determined by the University.
- The University Awards Committee may additionally recommend the student for the Vice Chancellor's Commendation where evidence of achievement is exceptional.
- A student may receive this award more than once if the innovations recognised are distinct and independently verified.

11. Annual Cultural & Sports Recognition

11.1 The University shall recognise outstanding cultural and sports achievement through a streamlined, combined annual awards process. A single ceremony shall be held for both Cultural and Sports awards, promoting institutional unity and simplifying the recognition calendar.

11.2 Process for Cultural & Sports Awards

Step	Stage	Detail
1	Nominations Invited	Schools, Sports Coaches, and Club Advisors submit nominations by a notified date each academic year.
2	School-Level Shortlisting	The School Awards Committee reviews and shortlists nominees, with the Central Observer ensuring consistency.
3	University Committee Review	Recommendations are forwarded to the University Awards Committee for final decision.
4	Combined Ceremony	A single annual ceremony is held for both Cultural and Sports awards. Schools may also recognise awardees at their Annual School Event.
5	Blazer & Photography	Meritorious students receiving Cultural or Sports awards shall be presented with a UPES blazer as a mark of distinction. Official photographs shall be taken at the ceremony.

11.3 Cultural Award Categories

Award	Description
Best Overall Cultural Performance	Individual or group with highest achievement across cultural events during the academic year.
Best Cultural Contribution — Club or Society	Club or society demonstrating highest impact, membership engagement, and event output.
Cultural Event Leadership Award	Student demonstrating exceptional organisation or leadership in a major cultural event.
Outstanding Artistic Achievement	Individual with distinguished achievement in a recognised art form (visual, performing, literary or any other category).
Inter-Collegiate Cultural Representative	Student representing UPES at inter-college, state, national, or international cultural competitions.

11.4 Sports Award Categories

Award	Description
Sports Person of the Year	Student demonstrating the highest overall sporting achievement during the academic year.
Best Sportsman (Male)	Top male sports performer of the year.
Best Sportswoman (Female)	Top female sports performer of the year.
Best Team of the Year	Team with highest collective achievement in an officially sanctioned competition.
Sports Leadership Award	Student demonstrating outstanding leadership as captain or team manager.
Emerging Sports Talent	First- or second-year student showing exceptional sporting promise.
University Representative Award	Student representing UPES at Inter-University, State, National, or International competition.

12. PhD Research Excellence Awards

12.1 PhD Thesis Excellence Award

12.1.1 This award shall be conferred at each annual Convocation in recognition of outstanding doctoral research.

12.1.2 School Classification:

Category	Schools
STEM	School of Advanced Engineering (SoAE); School of Health Sciences and Technology (SoHST); School of Computer Science (SoCS)
HSS	School of Law, Society and Management (SoLSM); School of Business (SoB); School of Law (SoL); School of Design (SoD)
ASO Track	Centres of Excellence

12.1.3 Award Cycle: Covers all Open Defence Committees (ODCs) held between the previous year's convocation and the present year's convocation. The cycle closes three months prior to convocation.

12.1.4 Nomination Process: Each School shall forward the name of the best thesis. Schools with 10 or more ODCs during the award cycle may submit two nominations.

12.1.5 Selection: Two External Review Committees — one for STEM, one for HSS and one for ASO Track — shall review submissions and select one winner in each category. There shall be two winners per Convocation.

12.1.6 Recognition: Winners shall receive a Recognition Certificate at the Convocation.

12.2 PhD Spotlight Research Award

12.2.1 Recognises PhD students for high-impact research publications on a quarterly basis.

12.2.2 Eligibility: Published in a Q1 or Q2 journal (SCOPUS or Web of Science) or A* or A ranked journal (ABDC); student listed as First Author; UPES Supervisor as co-author with UPES affiliation.

12.2.3 Each award winner shall receive up to Rs. 30,000/- for attending a national or international conference.

13. Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

13.1 This Award recognises alumni who have demonstrated exceptional achievement, leadership, and impact in their chosen fields.

13.2 Eligibility: Must be a UPES graduate with a minimum of five years elapsed since graduation; demonstrated sustained achievement; no unresolved disciplinary or criminal proceedings; nominations may be submitted by alumni, faculty, Schools, or industry partners; self-nominations not accepted; conferred no more than once per person.

13.3 Categories: Corporate Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Public Service, Social Impact, Research & Innovation, Creative Arts and Media.

13.4 The University reserves the right to revoke this award if the recipient is subsequently found to have engaged in conduct materially inconsistent with University values.

14. UPES Online (CCE) Students

Silver Medal for topper of each programme with a minimum of 8.5 CGPA.

15. Governance Structure

15.1 The responsibility for execution of this Policy shall lie with the Registrar. The Registrar shall oversee all stages of implementation, coordinate between Schools and Committees, and ensure compliance with the provisions of this Policy.

15.2 Administrative Responsibilities:

Area	Responsible Office
Overall Policy Execution	Registrar's Office
Academic Recognition	Registrar's Office

Cultural Recognition	Office of Student Engagement and Experience (SEE)
Sports Recognition	Sports Department
Cultural & Sports Ceremony (Combined)	SEE Office + Sports Department (coordinated by Registrar)
Blazer Procurement & Award	Registrar's Office (in coordination with SEE and Sports)
Alumni Awards	Alumni Relations Office
PhD Awards	Research & Development Office
10/10 CGPA Scholarship	Registrar's Office
Dean's List	Respective School / Dean's Office (independently administered)

16. Withholding, Withdrawal & Revocation of Awards

16.1 The University reserves the right to withhold, withdraw, or revoke any award, medal, honour, scholarship, or recognition conferred under this Policy if:

- False, misleading, or fabricated information has been submitted.
- The student or alumnus is subsequently found guilty of malpractice, misconduct, disciplinary violation, or criminal conduct.
- Serious concerns arise after selection but before conferment of the award.
- The award was conferred due to an administrative or factual error.

16.2 The decision of the Vice Chancellor in such cases shall be final and binding.

17. Authority

17.1 The Vice Chancellor shall be the final authority for interpretation and implementation of this Policy.

17.2 The University reserves the right to amend, modify, or update the provisions of this Policy in accordance with institutional governance processes.

17.3 The Registrar shall be responsible for operationalisation and shall issue detailed SOPs, nomination formats, scorecards, and committee structures for implementation of specific awards.

Manish Madaan
Registrar



Dr. Sunil Rai
Vice Chancellor