

Meet the winners of the APM Branch Awards 2022

The APM Branch Awards are an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of project professionals and students within their local APM Branch community.

Hear from some of last year's winners about what winning meant to them.

APM Midlands Branch Award Emerging Project Professional Winner 2022 Callum Bradford, Assistant Project Manager at The MTC



Callum's project looked at the ever-growing challenge of electronic waste. In 2019, 53.6 million tonnes of E-waste was produced, of which only 17% was recycled. The MTC has used experience and innovative design as a means of tackling the issue. Callum explored the potential of reducing E-Waste by injecting sustainability at the initial design phase, ensuring the product has been designed with circular economy in mind. This involves adding simplicity to design, such as reduced part count or ease of disassembly for repair, replacement or recycling. An electric toothbrush was identified as an electric product commonly found in landfill, therefore, benefiting from a sustainable design journey.

Please can you tell us a little bit about your professional background?

I graduated with a first class degree in Mathematics in 2020 and joined The Manufacturing Technology Centre (The MTC) in 2020 on the graduate scheme, where I was able to manage internal research projects and continuous improvements projects. I since progressed to the roll of Assistant Project Manager and look after a large portfolio of projects within the product manufacturing incubator at the MTC.

What did winning the award mean to you?

Winning the award was a very proud moment for me. With project management still being new for me at the time, it was encouraging to get recognition for work I had done early on in my career in the project profession and gave me even more motivation to carry on developing my skillset.

Why is it important to be recognised?

It's always nice to be recognised for your contributions and work, and I think recognition goes a long way with regards to instilling confidence in one's ability.

Do you have any hints or tips for people who are considering entering this year?

If I was to offer advice it would be to not undersell the contributions you made to the project as the PM and always try to back the skills you offered up with evidence and examples.

APM North East Branch Award Student of the Year Winner 2022

Precious Ihechikara Nwagboso, Teesside University



In her submission, Precious outlined her contribution to The Automated Gate Announcement (AGA) project for Murtala Mohammed International Airport (MMIA) in Lagos. Having travelled several times through MMIA as a passenger and encountering the manual and inconsistent announcements at various boarding gates and comparing it with her experience at other international airports, Precious recognised the need for a digital solution that would enhance passenger boarding experience and quality of service delivery at MMIA. This was the trigger for the project.

The project enabled Precious to practically apply the learning outcomes of various taught modules on her MSc IT Project Management course on this project. Whilst giving her the opportunity to proffer a digital solution to a real-life problem, it improved her project management skills and motivated her to continually take on more responsibilities to organize change initiatives.

Please can you tell us a little bit about your background?

I have a B.Eng. in Computer Engineering and completed my MSc in IT Project Management in January 2023. Previously, I worked within the IT and Construction industries, focusing majorly on Access Control Systems. I am an Associate member of the APM North East Branch.

What did winning the award mean to you?

The award reflects my commitment to the project management profession. It is also an indicator of a positive outcome of my MSc IT Project Management programme and offered an opportunity for me to apply theoretical project management principles to practice, by creating a solution to a real-life problem in my home country – Nigeria. The award inspired me to give back. A few days after receiving the award, I set up the Project Management Society at Teesside University, with the vision to build and foster a community of project management enthusiasts within the university and to support all society members in pursuing a successful career in project management.

Why is it important to be recognised?

Recognition helps to build confidence, serves as a reassurance that one is on the right path and can contribute to major projects at the leading edge of IT and project management, as well as acts as a motivation to do more in order to support people and systems. The student of the year award brings to limelight the skills and capacities of the winner, which can be showcased within and outside the project management association, especially to prospective employers, the university, and other stakeholders.

Do you have any hints or tips for people who are considering entering this year?

The award is a good opportunity for students to showcase their understanding of project management methodologies and get recognised for their efforts. Entrants should consider curating a project that aims to bring solutions to an area of need either within their immediate environment or on a global scale. The project should also try to portray the various elements of their project management modules. Committing to taking the first step to enter for the award is just as important as eventually winning.

APM South Wales and West England Branch Award Emerging Project Professional Winner 2022

Freddie Stephenson, Senior Management Consultant at MI-GSO | PCUBED



Freddie won the award for leading the macro level user-research elements of a complex, digital transformation programme led by the Central Digital & Data Office. He led a rotating team of consultants, most of whom were on their first client engagement, in a survey audit of ~3,000 different public sector organisations- from ministerial departments down to parish councils- to deliver insights about how they managed their presence online. An important element of the project was the close engagement with stakeholder groups that seldom interact with central government, and indeed who are often suspicious of it, like town clerks.

Please can you share a little bit about your professional background?

I came into project management consultancy via academia where I had completed a PhD in history and worked as a Research Fellow in China. The profession seemed like a good fit at the time. To me, PhDs resemble big (and very niche) projects, plus I liked the upskilling of consultancy and people-focused elements of project work. Since then, I have been managing projects and programmes in the public sector and haven't looked back since. I now work as a Senior Consultant at Mi-GSO|PCUBED, where I consult into a central government organisation.

What did winning the award mean to you?

The key thing for me was confirming that changing careers was the right choice, as routes out of academia for non-STEM PhD graduates are not always clear cut. Beyond that, it was a pleasant surprise to be sure. I've never considered myself to be a planner or that organised for that matter, at least that's the case in my personal life – so it was nice to see that I do have the skillset!

Why is it important to be recognised?

There are selfish reasons, of course. Recognition is good for my career progression and for staving off imposter syndrome. More than that though, I like consulting into the public sector, especially central government, because of the fiduciary aspect that leads to better benefits for ordinary people. As much as consultants are often demonised as expensive, PowerPoint pushers, I think I made a difference on the programme. Ultimately, to have that work validated was rewarding.

APM Thames Valley Branch Award Student of the Year Winner 2022 Franco Williams, Oxford University



Franco's project was around his work as part of the sustainability team, acting as the sustainability student consultant at the New College Project at Oxford, UK. They were awarded the ICE (Institution of Civil Engineers) Carbon Champions title for their work, which involved implementing sustainable practices and systems into the project to decrease carbon emissions and increase energy efficiencies.

Please can you tell us a little bit about your background?

I received my Bachelor from Edinburgh Napier University and Master of Civil Engineering with my thesis specialising in project management. I am currently a PhD student at Oxford University in the Engineering Science Department.

What did winning the award mean to you

Winning this award was an exceptional privilege and great satisfaction that my work and previous achievements had paid off. It also motivated me to work harder and to obtain more awards in the future.

Why is it important to be recognised?

It is profound to be recognised, as it verifies that the project and work done had a high impact level and the community appreciates it. Also, APM is a prestigious institution and being recognised is a great privilege.

Do you have any hints or tips for people who are considering entering this year?

If anyone is considering entering the competition this year, I would advise them not to hesitate and highlight the impact to the community or environment and achievements they realised from their projects.