

**Subject:** You have been nominated for a RATE award

**Date:** Monday, 29 April 2019 at 13:31:58 British Summer Time

**From:** clair.murray@stir.ac.uk

**To:** Damyan Kachulski

Dear Damyan,

Congratulations on your nomination!

The Recognising Achievement in Teaching Excellence (RATE) Awards is a teaching awards scheme run by the University of Stirling Students' Union. This year, student(s) chose to send in a nomination about how you have positively impacted them during their time here at Stirling. You may have been shortlisted for an award and therefore attended the RATE awards ceremony on the 24th of April, if so - congratulations! If not, we would like to thank you for your dedication to supporting students at the University and we hope that the details of your nomination will provide you with a reminder that you are making a fantastic impact on students' lives.

The category/ies you were nominated in:

- **Excellence in teaching in the Faculty of Arts & Humanities**
- **Outstanding Guidance & Mentoring Award**
- **Best Tutor Award**

It is an honour to receive a RATE nomination, knowing that each and every nomination comes directly from the positive experiences of students here at Stirling.

The nominations you have received from your students are:

- "Damyan demonstrates great passion in his work and truly cares about students, he will go over and above to ensure people aren't struggling and is always available for advice and guidance. He is highly knowledgeable of his subject and makes it engaging and interactive. I truly enjoy his teaching style. "
- "Damyan is a great teacher and mentor. He is knowledgeable, knows how to respond to anybody in any situation and doesn't give us the answers to our questions, but makes us think and guides us through answering our questions for ourselves. He asked us where we were from and doesn't only give us examples from the UK and USA, but gives us examples from what is currently happening in our native countries, which he shouldn't know if he didn't deliberately look for these examples beforehand to make the content more relatable to us. This was always amazing and made me emotionally connected to him, the subject and Stirling. He is an inspiration and a pleasure to work with. He refers to us as his colleagues and treats us with respect. He is the best."
- "Damyan Kachulski loves his class and wants us to be the best. He is very brave to be able to show his emotions to us and be so proud when we do a good job. He is motivational and inspirational, very knowledgeable about his topics and others that it gives me the confidence that I am in good hands. He introduced me to the employability service and helped me get a job when I told him I wanted to do more with my free time. He gave me additional resources and readings from coming years, so that I can prepare for the modules coming ahead. He keeps a distance from his students, but at the same time it is clear that he loves us and is proud of us when we do well and we perform well because of him."
- "Damyan has a fountain of knowledge and it seems to be ever expanding. This really shows in his seminars and the way he teaches and engages with his students. He's a busy man, but always willing to help and goes above and beyond with giving advice on how to approach reading or any other assignment. He's one to keep close."
- "Damyan listens to us and our difficulties and always turns them into positives and tell us why it's good that we are going through difficulties and how it makes our learning better. He uses many mobile devices and offers us a lot of alternative teaching methods (records what we do and then makes the rest give us feedback). We always understand his feedback and is always inspirational. He encourages us to spend our time outside of the class productively, to look for internships and work, helps us with our recommendations and applications and when someone is successful he makes them talk to the rest of the class about their experience and this inspires us more. University is not easy and Damyan is sometimes touch when we don't do a good job, but his kindness, inspiration and leadership have improved us a lot."

- "I am very shy but Damyan saw this and emailed me after class. We spoke and he told me that I can use this as a strength and not a weakness which I thought it was before. He paired me up with a former student of his and she told me how shy she was, but how Damyan helped her and this was very inspiring. He then told me that every time we start discussing the readings, I should prepare 10 sentences to say to the class from the readings and I should start first. Now I have no problem at all to speak and participate. I will be grateful for ever. This has changed my university performance for other classes also."
- "Words fail me to explain my gratitude. He is so encouraging, motivational and kind that everything that he says feels relevant to your individual work. He is so flexible that changes the module content sometimes when we struggle with assessment for other modules, so that we can focus on other work. He set us up with the learning services and with the information desk to help us with presenting and essay writing. He always finds something good about our work and brings it up. He has inspired so many people to switch to journalism and he makes the process so easy for us. He introduced us to the advisors of study and the office staff and now we know to go and seek help from them, if we need to. His example is amazing and I want to be an academic one day because of him."
- "Damyan is knowledgeable but also has emotional intelligence. He always understands when something is wrong or we are not prepared, but instead of making us feel bad about it, he finds a way to inspire us to see what our areas for improvement are and make them strengths with us. He helps us reach our potential and achieve our best work. He thought us how to engage with video materials, journal articles in an easy and interesting way which we never thought existed. He always point us to the right people for help when our issues prevent us from attending or studying. When I was struggling with my assignment, he asked me where I usually study, then he suggested that the environment is important and can affect performance and then brought me to the library after class and helped me plan my work there. It improved my performance."
- "Damyan always speaks to us about leadership and wants us to be leaders and he leads us and the class well. All of his examples relate to us and are current. He includes examples which happened during the week in his lectures and seminars for the same week and taught us to always read the news on our way to his classes. He motivates us to be the best and study hard. Because of his encouragement and example, I got a great internship now. Moreover, he give us information about different departments, competitions and events around the University which are relevant to us. He has really shaped our experience and I love his classes and want to continue with academia because of him. He loves what he does and we start loving our subject also as a result. "
- "Whenever we need help, he is always there in person or email. He is very knowledgeable about journalism, politics and every subject we have brought up in class. He is very good with technology and makes us use Box in class to work on the same task altogether, which nobody has done before and this made our classes very engaging. I look forward to Damyan's seminars or emails every week. Outside of the classes, he organised many speakers to come and talk to us about the practical application of the theory we study. He calls us colleagues and treats us very seriously, like he would like to be treated. Everybody attends his lectures because he is good and what he teaches we use in seminars and our assignments. He doesn't say anything irrelevant. He inspires us to participate."
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- "Damyan Kachulski loves his class and wants us to be the best. He is very brave to be able to show his emotions to us and be so proud when we do a good job. He is motivational and inspirational, very knowledgeable about his topics and others that it gives me the confidence that I am in good hands. He introduced me to the employability service and helped me get a job when I told him I wanted to do more with my free time. He gave me additional resources and readings from coming years, so that I can prepare for the modules coming ahead. He keeps a distance from his students, but at the same time it is clear that he loves us and is proud of us when we do well and we perform well because of him."
- "Damyan is full of ideas and is so flexible. If the computer in the rooms won't work, he takes his phone and shares his screen with our phones and we use the materials he gives us to discuss in class. He is very inspirational and even when things go wrong, he remains calm and finds a way out. His examples are amazing and the way he explains academic martial to us is very understandable. He is young and gives us

examples from his essays for his degree in Stirling University and uses them as example for structure and format. He knows everything about the University and doesn't need time to get back to us, he just answers directly. He showed us what our modules are until 4th year. Not only did he teach us, but also shaped our understanding about the University and beyond with work experience and jobs."

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- "While I have never personally been under his tutelage, he is a fantastic tutor/teacher. I have sought his advice many times on many different issues. He is born to educate and help people. He truly wants the best for his students and will always answer e-mails/messages, even from students that he has not seen for years. What is most amazing about him is his ability to take huge amounts of information and condense it to its barest form. He then proceeds to explain it without making the person feel like they are stupid or incapable. This innate skill is one that NOT a lot of tutors have. If i could turn back time i would seriously consider switching my undergraduate study with the hope of being in one of his classes. Damyan has a bright future ahead of him. I hope wherever his path takes him he remains this grounded, compassionate and dedicated to improving the way we educate people.

HE DESERVES THIS!"

- "Damyan is so good at what he does. I had anxiety presenting in class and he offered me 3 alternative ways of assessment, he pointed me out to the Hub to get assessment from them and support, but most importantly he helped me work through my anxiety - he made me understand why presenting would be great for me, even more because I am anxious, and had me present only to him in his office hour. He made me very comfortable and I am ready to talk in his classes now. He is amazing and very inspirational. He is a life saver, he genuinely cares. I love his classes."
- "I think he deserves this nomination because to be a teacher you need intelligence and passion. Frankly speaking the role of a teacher is to transfer knowledge and let the pupil get ingrossed in the subject and I think damyan possesses all those qualities needed for this nomination. Through out my learning years i've never seen a man so passionate and joyful while teaching, I think you can literally describe him as a man born to teach. "
- "Damyan's reading materials are always relevant and available. He points us in the right direction of reading, technology and other events. He is brave and resourceful. Once there was a clash with another class and instead of not knowing what to do and losing time, he calmly brought us to a quiet corridor and we had the seminar there only using our phones, which was the most memorable experience so far. He demonstrates us again and again that we don't depend on anything and anyone, but only on our choices and encourages us to always find a way to solve our problems and difficulties. I will miss him and his classes. He taught us a lot by recapping the main readings/concepts every other week and this helped us improve our essay and exam scores. He is inspirational and makes us want to do the work."
- "Damyan's seminars are stimulating, interesting and engaging. He takes us everywhere with him. He tells us about educational events in BBC Scotland, the department and in Stirling. He uses a lot of online teaching applications, websites and programmes which makes academia more related to us. He is tough, but inspirational and the only person who makes absolutely everyone talk in class. Even if they haven't done the readings, he gives them a short article to read or video to watch on their phones and then asks them to engage. To us who always prepare for class, he gives us additional resources, shows us how to go beyond what the module teaches us and bring information from other sources."
- "Damyan has been an invaluable help throughout the past year, I owe him a lot! He is an inspiring teacher and academic, whenever someone asks for advice or help, he is there and makes time for them. I don't know where I would be without his critical feedback and support. When students are struggling, he is there and offers to help, even after he is not their tutor anymore. He cares, he really does. He pushed people to be their best selves, he goes the extra mile. Every time. Thank you, Damyan, just ... thank you for everything. "
- "Damyan's patience and considerate nature brings the best out of us. If he sees something doesn't work, he changes it on the spot and always gives us a rationale for what we are asked to do. If someone is not able to attend his classes, he'd email them and give them tasks and notes from the seminars so they don't

miss anything. When we have a presentation assignment, he changes the structure of his lectures to show us how to structure our own talks (main points first and last and in between the body). Everybody feels comfortable to contribute and if something goes wrong, Damyan has their back and gets them back on track. The best thing he does is he explains to us why his assignments are good for us, how to study, how to approach preparation and so on from his own practice, leading with his own example."

- "Damyan is clearly so passionate about his subject and makes sure we all understand the concepts he teaches. He has made me so comfortable asking him for help concerning upcoming exams and assignments by not only talking to me but also taking time and re-reading my work, pointing out every little detail I could improve in the future. I am anxious when it comes to office hours and talking to tutors, but he suggested that we first talk via Skype for Business and made me see there is nothing scary. His support was so outstanding and beyond every expectation, that I feel a lot more confident now talking to people in person. His own enthusiasm about the subject makes every seminar a unique experience, and I would strongly recommend him to everyone who is willing to work hard and achieve a lot."
- "Before coming to university I never considered taking Journalism but now I want to continue it as part of my degree. Damyan has been a huge part of that as he has helped put me in contact with people that can help me. On top of that, he is a really passionate person who obviously loves journalism and makes his students love it too. There has been many times i've caught myself thinking 'I could do this' and it wouldn't have even been considered before this. When we don't understand something he explains it in ways which make sense and he's always making us look at the subject from different perspectives to make us think. He makes my friends and I want to work hard and make him proud. So, i'm really thankful I randomly decided to take journalism this year, and i'm also thankful that I got a tutor who goes above and beyond to help his students and makes them want to do better in this subject. "
- "The best tutor. Sometimes he runs his lectures like seminars. He gives us microphones and walks around us while teaching and occasionally asks us what authors and concepts from past weeks we can relate to the new material. This way everyone is alert and engaged. He uses sometimes Kahoot, Prezi, Skype and other tools in his classes, other times he just uses the white board. You never know what to expect and other times he asks us questions at the beginning and we need to answer at the end using our phones to support our answers with sources (documents/policy/laws), but while listening to his class and participating. It is really challenging but this has developed our ability to work quickly and under pressure and we see at the end that it's easy and works."
- "Damyan always made sure seminars were a place for students to discuss readings, regularly present powerpoint presentations about the weekly reading or key concepts of theory. He made it enjoyable and interesting and put students first. "
- "Damyan is knowledgeable but also has emotional intelligence. He always understands when something is wrong or we are not prepared, but instead of making us feel bad about it, he finds a way to inspire us to see what our areas for improvement are and make them strengths with us. He helps us reach our potential and achieve our best work. He thought us how to engage with video materials, journal articles in an easy and interesting way which we never thought existed. He always point us to the right people for help when our issues prevent us from attending or studying. When I was struggling with my assignment, he asked me where I usually study, then he suggested that the environment is important and can affect performance and then brought me to the library after class and helped me plan my work there. It improved my performance"
- "Damyan is amazing. Every time I receive an email from Damyan I cannot wait to read it. He always gives us additional information, help and an interesting way to engage with the realigns and the course materials. He records himself explaining things and sends these to us. We work together in Box and Office 365 and in the Maker Space. He encourages us to be creative and solve problems. He is a great tutor and I am grateful that he is there."
- "Damyan is a great teacher and mentor. He is knowledgeable, knows how to respond to anybody in any situation and doesn't gives us the answers to our questions, but makes us think and guides us through answering our questions for ourselves. He asked us where we were from and doesn't only give us examples from the UK and USA, but gives us examples from what is currently happening in our native countries, which he shouldn't know if he didn't deliberately look for these examples beforehand to make the content more relatable to us. This was always amazing and made me emotionally connected to him, the subject and Stirling. He is an inspiration and a pleasure to work with. He refers to us as his colleagues and treats us with respect. He is the best."
- "Damyan's outstanding effort in teaching has made us engage with topics in a manner we never thought about before. When we see academic theory as something impractical, he recognises this and gives us the real application of concepts in ways very few people do. He's a fantastic mentor who always goes above

and beyond to support us. His style of teaching has helped my confidence and engage with readings. He doesn't stand in front of the class, but walks among us. This way, he encourages healthy debate and free thinking. His is approachable making it so much easier for people to participate in seminars, there is no worry of what his reaction may be to your thoughts. He is knowledgeable but shows interest in subjects he is not familiar with and immediately finds a way to use what he hears from us in his talks. He's made me not quit. "

- "Words fail me to explain my gratitude. He is so encouraging, motivational and kind that everything that he says feels relevant to your individual work. He is so flexible that changes the module content sometimes when we struggle with assessment for other modules, so that we can focus on other work. He set us up with the learning services and with the information desk to help us with presenting and essay writing. He always finds something good about our work and brings it up. He has inspired so many people to switch to journalism and he makes the process so easy for us. He introduced us to the advisors of study and the office staff and now we know to go and seek help from them, if we need to. His example is amazing and I want to be an academic one day because of him."
- "I am very shy but Damyan saw this and emailed me after class. We spoke and he told me that I can use this as a strength and not a weakness which I thought it was before. He paired me up with a former student of his and she told me how shy she was, but how Damyan helped her and this was very inspiring. He then told me that every time we start discussing the readings, I should prepare 10 sentences to say to the class from the readings and I should start first. Now I have no problem at all to speak and participate. I will be grateful for ever. This has changed my university performance for other classes also."
- "Damyan is an excellent lecturer and seminar tutor. Despite taking on almost all the seminars of the entire JOUU9X2 module he makes the extra effort to personally get to know everyone. His lectures and seminars are incredibly informative and I feel like his methods of teaching have really enhanced my learning this semester. There is a plethora of extra learning materials on canvas and if we are in need of any help he is more than willing to work with with us personally to help our understanding. I couldn't praise him enough!"
- "Damyan listens to us and our difficulties and always turns them into positives and tell us why it's good that we are going through difficulties and how it makes our learning better. He uses many mobile devices and offers us a lot of alternative teaching methods (records what we do and then makes the rest give us feedback). We always understand his feedback and is always inspirational. He encourages us to spend our time outside of the class productively, to look for internships and work, helps us with our recommendations and applications and when someone is successful he makes them talk to the rest of the class about their experience and this inspires us more. University is not easy and Damyan is sometimes touch when we don't do a good job, but his kindness, inspiration and leadership have improved us a lot."
- "Damyan is the best tutor I've had so far. He really care about his students' education and is always willing to help us in any way he can (and he's also super quick at replying to emails!). At the start of every tutorial he makes sure everyone understood correctly the concepts of the lectures before moving forward to discussing the readings, he welcomes any question and engages with students not by making them feel pressured to answer or to know, but by stimulating them and invite them to reflect on the topic. Moreover he's the only tutor to check the register out loud by calling the name and looking at each person: I think this is important for making the student feel at ease as well as acknowledging him/her as person, not just a number written on a random paper (which we do have to sign, but actually in the tutor's eye anyone else could have signed it and it wouldn't matter)."

Best Wishes,

The University of Stirling Students' Union

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<http://www.stir.ac.uk/privacy>

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