

2025-26

LAPSO

Leadership Advancement Program for Student Organizations

Award

Drama Society, HKUSTSU

Korean Students' Association, HKUSTSU

University Philharmonic Orchestra, HKUSTSU

Honorable Mention: Locopolis & Physics Students' Club

Gold Award - Winter Concert 2025

Silver Award - HKUSTSU Bodybuilding Competition 2025

Bronze Award - Global Fiesta x Language and Culture Day 2026

The Outstanding
Student
Organization

The Innovative
Student-led
Activity of the Year



The Outstanding Student Organization

(in alphabetical order)

Drama Society, HKUSTSU

Strong Organizational Structure and Large-Scale Event Coordination:



Drama Society demonstrated solid management capabilities in coordinating large-scale productions throughout the session. With a well-structured working group and a comprehensive student-run effort in covering scriptwriting, stage management, lighting, sound, and set design, the Society showcased remarkable teamwork and pursuit of professionalism. The panel also appreciated their efforts in connecting with alumni and senior members to deliver themed workshops, which significantly enhanced the skills and practical exposure of junior members.

The Society fostered a collaborative environment that empowered members to explore various dimensions of theatre while strengthening their technical and performance skills. Moving forward, the panel encourages the Society to further explore emerging trends—such as incorporating AI elements or experimenting with mini-drama formats—to expand artistic innovation and sustain their creative momentum.

Korean Students' Association (KSA), HKUSTSU

Significant Digital Transformation and Career Development Initiatives:

Korean Students' Association (KSA) sets clear goals for the 2025–26 session and demonstrated their remarkable progress in achieving digital transformation and supporting members' career development. The launch of the official website and alumni database marked a major milestone in enhancing communication efficiency, and long-term professional networking. Collaborations with corporations and recruitment platforms further strengthened career exposure for members, reflecting strategic planning and forward-thinking leadership.

The panel commends KSA's structured onboarding and mentorship initiatives, which successfully created a supportive environment for Korean students while engaging the wider university community. The panel looks forward to more diversified empowerment initiatives in the future, particularly in promoting Korean culture and leading collaborations to integrate local and non-local communities on campus.



The Outstanding Student Organization

(in alphabetical order)

University Philharmonic Orchestra, HKUSTSU

Exceptional Management and Organizational Excellence:

University Philharmonic Orchestra, HKUSTSU (UPO) demonstrated outstanding management and communication in both society administration and large-scale event coordination. Their structured operations, strong collaboration across units, and effective financial management enabled the smooth delivery of multiple high-profile performances. UPO's commitment to innovation not only reflects in their performances but also includes developing technical systems and a clear division of labor that makes strong use of members' diverse academic backgrounds.

UPO also showed strong dedication to members' musical and technical development, strengthening internal engagement and overall musicianship. Their concerts and technology collaborations created meaningful cultural impact across campus, while the inclusion of local, non-local, alumni, staff, undergraduate and postgraduate members has reinforced UPO's identity as a vibrant and inclusive musical community at HKUST.

As a second-time award recipient, UPO's relentless pursuit of excellence and innovation left the panel in awe. The Society sets an exemplary standard for student organizations to emulate.



Honorable Mention



Physics Students' Club

The panel recognizes the club's systematic organization and strong teamwork, marking a notable achievement for this rebuilt student group with no prior executive continuity. While the current activity impact remains developing, the club has demonstrated commitment, adaptability and momentum. The panel encourages greater initiative in outreach, collaboration, and community engagement, leveraging its strong academic foundation to expand its influence.

Locopolis



The panel commends Locopolis for its meaningful vision in promoting ethnic minority cultures and fostering inclusivity at HKUST. Although the current scale of engagement is modest, this newly established group demonstrates strong purpose and potential. The diverse backgrounds of its members and the communities they serve are key strengths, supporting students in developing dual cultural identities—internationally minded yet connected to Hong Kong culture and society.

THE INNOVATIVE STUDENT-LED ACTIVITY OF THE YEAR

Gold Award: Winter Concert 2025 (University Philharmonic Orchestra, HKUSTSU)

The activity impressed the panel as a groundbreaking and visionary student-led production that seamlessly integrated music and AI technology. The concert featured world-class applications, including AI-generated visuals and brain wave-driven painting performed live alongside the orchestra, creating an unprecedented experience. The collaboration with AI laboratories, professional artists, soloists, and a marching band demonstrated a powerful innovative ecosystem connecting academia, technology, and the performing arts.

The event showcased exceptional organizational leadership, meticulous coordination, and professional execution, delivering a sold-out performance at the Shaw Auditorium. Its immersive design, which enabled audience participation in the AI-art creation process, further elevated the concert experience. This initiative not only highlighted artistic innovation but also positioned HKUST as a leader in integrating technology and arts education.



Silver Award: HKUSTSU Bodybuilding Competition 2025 (The Executive Committee, HKUSTSU)

As the first student-led bodybuilding competition among Hong Kong universities, this event marked a significant milestone in promoting fitness culture at HKUST. With strong positioning and clear objectives, the competition successfully engaged participants, attracted sponsors and partners, and gained attention from both the university community and the wider public. The event provided students with valuable exposure to professional bodybuilding pathways while reinforcing the values of discipline, perseverance, and healthy living.

Building on this strong foundation, the panel encourages the organizer to further enhance the event's depth through more collaborative initiatives, such as pre-event workshops, training sessions, or educational promotions. Strengthening these developmental components could broaden its long-term influence and impact.



Bronze Award: Global Fiesta x Language and Culture Day 2026 (AIESEC-LC-HKUST, HKUSTSU)

This activity demonstrated meaningful cultural impact by fostering exchange and inclusivity within the HKUST community. The panel was impressed by the "AIESEC Portal," an initiative that connected HKUST students with peers worldwide. The event successfully brought together diverse student groups and showcased a wide range of cultural traditions. The panel also recognized the organizer's reflection and improvement from previous experiences. Collaboration with university offices and cross-society this year further enhanced quality assurance and optimized resource utilization.

With its solid cultural impact and growing institutional collaboration, the event has strong potential for further innovation. The panel looks forward to seeing more original concepts and cross-disciplinary initiatives that can elevate the activity into a signature cultural platform at HKUST.



LAPSO

Exco Appreciation Reception

Event Highlights

Cheers to Commitment, Excellence, and Connections.



LAPSO

Exco Appreciation Reception

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Overall comments

from the panel

The panel was encouraged by the strong cross-disciplinary and cross-society collaborations, commitment, and growing ambition demonstrated by this year's award recipients. The LAPSO Award Scheme not only recognizes excellence but also seeks to identify student groups that exemplify leadership, best practices in execution and management, creative vision in contributing to the University's development, and organizational quality in serving a diverse community.

In particular, for "The Outstanding Student Organization Award," applicants should be assessed based on their ability to articulate a long-term vision for elevating their organization and to demonstrate how they translated that vision into concrete actions throughout their tenure. Likewise, for applications under "The Innovative Student-led Activity of the Year" category, it is essential to demonstrate clear and original innovative elements—beyond merely describing activity outcomes—alongside a well-articulated and evidenced impact.

Awardees are expected to deliver performance and outcomes that fully embody the spirit and standards of the awards. While this year's recipients have shown commendable achievements, the panel looks forward to seeing them continue to push boundaries, deepen their impact, make meaningful use of their academic strengths, and further elevate the quality and distinctiveness of student-led initiatives at HKUST.