



International Celebrations for Students

The Institute announces the winning line-up for the IMS Student of the Year awards for 2022.

People from organisations around the world continue to choose to study for the four week IMS Productivity Analyst qualification (formerly the IMS Certificate). The course requires a significant commitment from both the student and their employer but the rewards for both are equally significant.

At the end of each year, the Institute considers all the people who have completed the professional qualification that year. Based on the individual marks and lecturer assessment, the Institute can now announce that the winner of the Student of the Year Award for 2022 is Eleanor Johnson, from Asda Stores Limited in Yorkshire.

Very close behind the winner, impossible to separate, were four people all now working as Industrial Engineers, who are declared as runners-up to the Student of the Year Award: Anthony Bradnum

from DHL Supply Chain in Hertfordshire, Lucia Pandeale from Whitman Laboratories in Petersfield and two people from shoe manufacturer ECCO: Suteethorn Saengmanee in Thailand and Dinas Haranditya in Indonesia.

All five students had completed their training with Manchester-based Scott-Grant Limited and so in February were invited to Manchester with their managers to celebrate their success and receive their certificates and gifts from both the Institute and the training provider. Lucia, Suteethorn and Dinas were unable to be there but will receive their items in due course.

An international award, no mean feat

On behalf of the IMS, Deputy Chairman David Blanchflower presented Eleanor with an engraved crystal trophy and a cheque. IMS Chair of Education Mark Cooper was also there to present the official IMS certificate to Eleanor. "It is a significant achievement," David said "that you are at the 'top of the tree' in 2022. It is no mean feat. We can see just from the breadth of businesses represented here in this event, that the Student of the Year is indeed an international award."

Mark Cooper reminded the students that they now can include the designatory letters AMS after their name, as testimony to the stature of the professional qualification. "It's not the end, it's just the beginning of your careers as productivity professionals" he said.

Winner Eleanor Johnson had graduated during 2016 from Leeds in geography, then after trying a couple of employment options, she was attracted to Asda's graduate scheme in 2019, which enabled her to look in detail at various departments. "I liked the logistics side – numbers and data are my thing," said Eleanor, "so I was delighted to go on the IMS course. I seemed to really take to the content right from day one of Module 1." That was in October 2020; it wasn't until February 2022 that she was able to complete the final fourth module.

Alongside Eleanor in support was Lance Hanning, Process Manager who beamed, "I'm her line manager, mentor and coach, and I feel very privileged to do that. I know she's very good at what she does. She's very humble about her achievements. Her reaction after the course was that 'it had gone quite well' and look where we are today – on top of the world!"

Anthony Bradnum, one of the runners-up, had also tried a



David Blanchflower and Mark Cooper with Eleanor Johnson.



Celebrating success (seated) David Blanchflower, Eleanor Johnson, Anthony Bradnum.
Back row: Mark Cooper, Ian Winstanley, Lance Hanning, Sarah Tomlinson, Steve Heathcote, Richard Taylor.

different career route before joining his current employer DHL Supply Chain. He graduated in electrical engineering, then trained as a teacher but in the early days of the Covid lockdown, he joined DHL on the shop floor. Anthony was nominated to get involved with data collection for the introduction of robots “and that’s when I found myself!” he said. “Data is what’s needed in industry today and the IE data I now produce can have a significant impact on the business.”

Anthony’s boss Continuous Improvement Manager Sarah Tomlinson agreed. “It’s the core of our productivity management. Anthony has developed his IE role and produces strong data. It’s significant for the whole business because it’s important to have a valid background for how we do our planning; the IMS Productivity Analyst course is great for that.”

Lucia Pandele had studied economics before joining Whitman Laboratories in Petersfield over six years ago. It was while working as a Support Assistant for the IE department that her interest in the role of an IE was sparked. Her boss Martyn Tanner agreed to send her on the IMS Productivity Analyst course “and I found my niche!” Lucia admitted. “I now apply the content of the course in everything I do and I really enjoy my work. I am ‘the woman with the watch’ at work – but I try to get people to understand I’m watching the operation, not the operator. I find it very fulfilling. We have 25 or more production lines, as part of the Estee Lauder group producing skincare products.”

Martyn was delighted with Lucia’s achievement. “Now she has a professional qualification for life. It’s a partnership; we both win. She delivers, at a professional standard, everything to do with cost savings, process and productivity improvement. She’s a great listener, she’s factual and data-based. I’m the Operations Excellence Manager and people like Lucia make it easy for me!”

Dining Irma Djarliri is the Senior Manager and Global Advisor in

Work Study for ECCO Indonesia and she was similarly impressed with the success of two of their students. “This really is great news. Dinas is one of the best IEs in our current Work Study department in Indonesia; she is diligent, willing to learn and has a high passion for her work. And Suteethorn’s engagement and personal character, his strong willingness to learn and the passion for his work has resulted in this great achievement! He joined us in Thailand from the electronics industry less than a year ago.”

There was justification for added celebration during a subsequent online presentation to the ECCO students. David Blanchflower, as Chairman of the Russell Currie Memorial Fund also announced that Dinas and Suteethorn were joint winners of the RCMF award in 2022 for students on the four week IMS course who live and work overseas. There will be more information on that in the MSJ Summer issue.

Richard Taylor, Managing Director of Scott-Grant said, “We had a strong year for training in 2022 as businesses generally recovered from the Covid issues, and it gathered even more pace as the year finished. Across all business sectors there was a healthy interest in the IMS Productivity Analyst courses, both in the UK and overseas. Open courses held here in Manchester, in-company at customer sites – literally across the world – and remotely managed courses, were all well attended. We often needed to add extra weeks of training to our published schedule, so our course tutors in particular have been kept extremely busy, especially Steve Heathcote, Ian Winstanley and Stephen Royle.” This caused the three of them in the room to try and not look too tired as they congratulated the winning students! After the presentation everyone enjoyed a celebratory lunch in a nearby hotel.

David Blanchflower added, “Scott-Grant always set a high standard and we’re most grateful for all that they do with and for the Institute.”