

International High Achievers

The Institute announces Ellis Dunnachie as IMS Student of the Year for 2024.



Front row (l-r): Ellis Dunnachie, Murray Brown, Charlene Lewis.
Back row (l-r): Richard Taylor, Steve Heathcote, Ian Winstanley, Stephen Royle, David Blanchflower, Mark Cooper.

The Student of the Year Awards Day is the main event of the year for the Institute of Management Services and Scott-Grant Limited, the Institute's principal training provider. They have together identified the best students on the IMS Productivity Analyst course, having considered the actual marks and the course tutors' assessment of all who have completed the four one week modules in 2024.

Ellis Dunnachie, an Industrial Engineer from Spirit AeroSystems in Prestwick, Scotland was declared the IMS Student of the Year for 2024. Close behind her were two

other Industrial Engineers, Charlene Lewis from Cummins Turbo Technologies in Huddersfield and Murray Brown from Thermo Fisher Scientific in Paisley, Scotland. The winner and joint runners-up were invited to come with their manager and receive their awards at the end of January at an event hosted by Scott-Grant in a city centre hotel in Manchester.

In welcoming everyone, Richard Taylor, Managing Director of Scott-Grant and Fellow of the IMS described the students as international high achievers. "We want to recognise the significant achievement that each of you has made and we're

Ellis Dunnachie, Charlene Lewis and Murray Brown.



delighted that you have all come to be with us today," he said. "We've been training people across the world including Australia and New Zealand, Indonesia, Thailand, Asia, Slovakia, Egypt, France, America... in fact I think the only continent we haven't trained people in recent years is South America. So you can see that training for the IMS Productivity Analyst is truly international and all these people know that the qualification is indeed the industry standard for productivity professionals."

Mark Cooper, in his new role as Chairman of the IMS welcomed everyone and thanked Scott-Grant for hosting this important occasion in the life of three IEs. "I am so glad to welcome new members to our long established institute – it's always good to see young people joining us. We are currently working on some new initiatives to support our members as they commit themselves to productivity as a profession." He continued, "Of course, completing a course doesn't lead to instantly becoming a specialist. Just like a doctor, you have to develop practical skills working with other experienced practitioners in applying the techniques and knowledge you have gained. But for now, you have cleared the first hurdles impressively, you have the technical knowledge that you can start to apply and make a difference in your organisation. And with the Institute's help, you can hopefully be mentored and assisted to become a really rounded productivity professional."

The Institute's Highest Award for Ellis Dunnachie

Mark presented Ellis with the Institute's highest award: IMS Student of the Year for 2024 marked by an engraved trophy, certificate and a cheque. Then on behalf of Scott-Grant, Principal Course Tutor Steve Heathcote presented Ellis with a

certificate and gift from the company. He had taught Ellis on all four modules and confirmed that her results throughout were outstanding. "You were a credit to your company," he added "and they will be very proud of you."

Ellis was really thrilled. "It is such a great start to my career. I absolutely loved the course – it had been recommended to me by my colleague Tom Moffat who was a runner-up last year. The work I've done over the last six months has been so rewarding. I've applied a lot of the course content in my own life as well, having moved into my own flat where there was a lot of work to be done. I had it all organised and got every detail finished on time!"

Niall MacLean, Ellis's recently appointed manager, was with her. "We're very proud of her – her work has made a significant difference. She's also a great role model to other apprentices coming through." Ellis started with Spirit five years ago as an apprentice, becoming a qualified aircraft fitter three and a half years later. She twice won Apprentice of the Year in 2022 and 2023 and was also Scottish Engineering's Apprentice in 2023. "I'm really competitive – I believe that to keep competitive you have to keep improving," she said, adding "my mantra for life seems to be, 'if I can build a plane wing, I can do this!'. Now I find the role of the IE suits me so well because I naturally want to try and make things better, I like attention to detail, I have a logical and strategic brain; I'm really fulfilled."

Murray Brown

After his engineering degree Murray Brown started in 2018 to work with Thermo Fisher Scientific, a world leader in science. Having taught three of his four modules, Principal Course Tutor Ian Winstanley presented Murray with his Scott-Grant certificate



Thato Sejoe (fourth from the left) gathers with colleagues and officials from the Government of Botswana for her online presentation of the RCMF award.

and trophy, saying, "He's been on an international journey with this course, when you consider all the delegates he's studied with, including people from as far afield as Botswana, Egypt and Sunderland! Seriously, over the five years since you started on Module 1, Murray, you have built on your experience at work and developed into the impressive Industrial Engineer that you are today, so congratulations on your achievement."

Murray confirmed he had thoroughly enjoyed the whole course. "It was invaluable for getting specialist knowledge of work measurement techniques. We have a diverse range of processes at Thermo Fisher and I now have a comprehensive toolset of techniques that I can draw on and use as appropriate: Activity Sampling, MOST® and Time Study – and I have a Performance Rating card too." He added, "My work really suits me. I'm a time-served Manufacturing Technician and I've always been obsessed with efficiencies, wanting to find the best, most effective ways of doing things. Continuous Improvement (CI) is in my blood. I found the whole of the four week course just great!"

Murray's manager, Senior CI Manager Matthew Gilliver, was delighted at Murray's achievement. "He's very dedicated to his work and it's great that he's done so well. The IMS Productivity Analyst is a key qualification for IEs and the work he's now qualified to do makes a significant contribution to our organisation. Having accurate standards is now more important than ever as we introduce a new scheduling system. The breadth of specialist IE knowledge that Murray has is significant to our business."

Charlene Lewis

Charlene Lewis travelled from Huddersfield with her

manager, Andrew Richardson, the Lead IE at Cummins Turbo Technologies Ltd. Principal Course Tutor Stephen Royle congratulated Charlene on her performance saying her efforts were impressive. "You were always enthusiastic, organised, hard working and a pleasure to teach and to have in the classroom. It's not only your own efforts we're recognising today – you have a very supportive family, you've got a good boss in Andrew (who did Modules 1 and 2 with us some years ago) and a good, supportive company in Cummins. But the effort you put in is being recognised today with this certificate and award – so, well done indeed."

Charlene started with Cummins in 2019 as an apprentice technician, then began to study for a B Tech qualification before getting an HNC, all whilst working full time. She is currently halfway through studying on a day release B Eng degree in mechanical engineering, so the learning environment at Scott-Grant was an easy adjustment for her. "I really enjoyed the course but the tutors made it very straightforward – they're obviously very experienced," she said. "I really enjoy doing Time Studies to determine outputs and identify improvements, then communicating the findings internally. I really feel that IEs can make a difference in an organisation. I was inspired initially by the team of Manufacturing Engineers at Cummins."

Andrew confirmed that he had recognised Charlene's potential when she applied for the IE role, adding "we're already reaping the benefits of her studying to be a productivity professional. Her level of commitment is impressive and I really don't know how she managed to fit in all her studying for the four week course – and do so well. Because she has practical experience of a range of processes, she can prove convincingly that her recommendations for improvement, based on her



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accurate data, are sound and feasible. We are very proud of her and we recognise the importance of having the full IMS Productivity Analyst qualification at Cummins."

RCMF Award for Thato Sejo

Earlier on the morning of the Award presentations, an online link was established between Manchester and Botswana to enable another annual award to be made. The winner of the Russell Currie Memorial Fund (RCMF) Award is given each year to the highest achiever of overseas students on the IMS Productivity Analyst course who live and work outside the UK. Invariably their first language is not English, as was the case with the winner of the award in 2024 – Thato Abigail Sejo from the Government of Botswana.

Thato has worked for them for 16 years and her current role is a Management Analyst responsible for the re-engineering of processes which in the end produce standards for the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. Her first language is Setswana and like many of her colleagues who have studied for the productivity qualification, Thato is now using much of the content of the course as she's involved in using categorical data on a daily basis. "It has indeed changed my life tremendously," she beamed, with her characteristic wide smile. "I can now identify and gauge how productive or counterproductive people are."

Thato was presented with a specially engraved silver salver to recognise her achievement and a special certificate, both of which have now been sent to her. "Encouraging productivity overseas is one of the aims of the RCMF," explained David Blanchflower, Chairman of the RCMF. Russell Currie was a former President of the IMS who worked overseas for many

The graphic features the IMS logo (Institute of Management Services) and the Scott-Grant logo (for improved productivity). The title 'Student of the Year' is prominently displayed. Below the title is a congratulatory message: 'We are delighted to recognise the outstanding achievement of these people in attaining the best results of all delegates who completed the IMS Productivity Analyst course (formerly the IMS Certificate) that year.' A table lists the winners from 2013 to 2024, including their names and employers. The bottom right corner features the Royal Coat of Arms of the United Kingdom.

2024	Ellis Dunnachie	Spirit AeroSystems (Europe) Limited
2023	Beth Renhard	Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK)
2022	Eleanor Johnson	Asda Stores Limited
2021	Jack Arnold Steven Dunn	Clipper Logistics Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK)
2020	Hugh Wright	Tesco Stores Limited
2019	Laura Taylor	Jaguar Land Rover Limited
2018	Richard Clamp	Asda Stores plc
2017	Rachel Pallan	Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK)
2016	Daniel Eales	Next Distribution Limited
2015	Alison Fox Paul McCaffery	Valuation Office Agency Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service
2014	Rachel Jinks	Tesco Stores Limited
2013	Amanda Cadwallader Lynda Howarth	USDAW Littlewoods Clearance

The Award Board.

years in the field of work study and productivity improvement. Winners of the RCMF award in recent years have come from India, Spain, Indonesia and Botswana.

Already with a BA degree and management development certification, Thato confirmed she had found the course challenging and exciting. "I particularly found the Module 2 using MOST® to be very engaging, not to mention vital in my work to define accurate standard times. Ian (Winstanley) made it easy to understand for me by giving us many live examples." Thato is one of about 40 people from Botswana whom Scott-Grant has trained in the last few years.

A number of Thato's colleagues and some officials from the Government of Botswana joined the online presentation to add their congratulations to her for her significant achievement. Among them were her former supervisor, Galeome Morakaladi and a colleague, Onthusitse Skelemani who came with Thato to Manchester for the four week course. "They were all delighted at my success, just like my family and friends."

Congratulations to all these international high achievers. The Institute of Management Services is delighted to have been involved in shaping their careers.