

Call for Nominations

1st Students and Young People's Award for Furthering Access to Post-Secondary Education

GAPS Award includes travel, accommodation & conference participation

The GAPS Initiative with the support of the [Austrian Union of Students \(Österreichische HochschülerInnenschaft\)](#) is delighted to Call for Nominations for the 1st 'GAPS Students and Young People's Award for Furthering Access to Post-Secondary Education'.

The Global Access to Post-Secondary Education (GAPS) Initiative of the European Access Network (EAN) aims to build a global access movement with the objective of widening access to post-secondary education. Partnering with organizations from across the world, GAPS works to bring together those sectors committed to equality of access to post-secondary education through collaborative advocacy and action.

The Austrian Union of Students founded in 1946 is the legal representative for all Austrian students. The union represents the interests of students to the appropriate authorities and provides services and activities to improve the study conditions of students. With regards to access, the student union has organized several projects and campaigns and offers counselling and support to students.

Those eligible to receive this new GAPS Award include individual youth and students (up to age 30) as well as youth- and student-led organizations and initiatives. Nominees must have demonstrated a strong, sustained commitment to the cause of widening access to post-secondary education and/or an innovative approach to improving equality of post-secondary opportunity and student success. Achievements of the nominees can be demonstrated in several ways, but may include the aspects of replicability, verifiability, sustainability and evidence for change. Activities performed by the nominees can for example include research, counselling, trainings, campaigns, summer schools, peer learning and/or outreach activities.

The 'Students and Young People's Award for Furthering Access to Post-Secondary Education' will be conferred for the first time at a special ceremony following the [GAPS Kuala Lumpur 2015 conference dinner \(Meeting the global challenge of building equitable knowledge economies, Sunway University, October 5-8, 2015\)](#).

Award winners will receive a fee waiver for the 2015 conference, an invitation to the conference dinner as well as a flight subsidy of up to \$800.00 USD and five nights hotel accommodation for one person. The Award winners will also be given the opportunity to present their work during the '[Access Forum for Students and Young People](#)' taking place October 5th.

To nominate an individual student/youth or a student- or youth-led organization or initiative, please supply the following information by August 23, 2015 to florian.kaiser@gaps-education.org:

- A detailed letter outlining the reasons why this person/organization should receive the award (up to 1,000 words)
- A brief curriculum vitae or organizational history (a single page only) of the nominee
- The full contact details of the nominee (name, organization, website, address, phone and e-mail)

The Selection Committee will be composed of representatives from the GAPS Executive Committee, the Austrian Students' Union and GAPS Network Partners.

Winners will be announced on www.gaps-education.org and through GAPS social media channels on September 1st, 2015.

For more information, please contact florian.kaiser@gaps-education.org.