

# Elif Karanis

## Rising Star Award

### Describe the work of the individual being nominated

We are a new charity, and Elif has been instrumental in setting it up. We assess students from non-selective state schools to see if they are world class. Elif was one of the students from her school who led and passed the assessment. She then trained as an assessor herself, and is now one of our lead qualified assessors. She set up the WCSQM alumni association and is the inaugural chair.

### Give examples of the projects or work the individual has done

Elif overhauled a primary school playground to pass her assessment as a world class student. She trained as an assessor herself, and is now a qualified assessor. She supported students to overhaul the playground of Riverbank Academy Special School. She was one of our key note speakers at our 2018 Symposium, introduced and thanked our other keynote – artist, Grayson Perry. She won our Individual Achievement Award, and went on to set up our alumni association.

### What has been the impact of the projects or work that the individual has contributed to?

Elif's impact has been extraordinary. We are a very small, new charity with limited funds. One of our aims is to improve the life chances of students who go to non-selective state schools. Elif has participated directly in improving the physical spaces of two of our partner schools. She has motivated students that she has assessed to become world class. She has motivated students, to whom she has presented at our events, to apply to universities that they would not otherwise have done, had she not role-modelled her own ambition. She herself is an EAL student who attended a school with a 25% disadvantaged pupil population. She has set up an organisation that brings together students who have become world class, so that they can garner opportunities and confidence from their collaborative strength. She has led seven other students to set up the association. She has not received any help, or money from us to do so. She has done this, all while applying to and receiving a place from Fitzwilliam College Cambridge to study languages. We now have primary and secondary students achieving World Class status. They look up to Elif, and we have a bank of statements saying how she has galvanised them to reach their potential.

### Follow Elif Karani

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