IAgrE Student Awards

NOMINATION SUMMARY

IAgrE CNH Industrial Award* / Student Project Award*
Safety Award*
***please delete as appropriate:**

PROPOSER: (usually Course Director/Head of Department)

Name: Zoltan Kevei

Position: Lecturer in Plant Molecular Genetics

University/College: (name and address)

Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Cranfield University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0AL

Contact details:	**Tel:** +44 (0) 1234 758312	**Email:** z.l.kevei@cranfield.ac.uk

DETAILS OF NOMINATION:

Name of Student/Group of Students: Ryan Creeth

Personal contact details (i.e not college) to enable us to contact the student(s) once their course has ended:

Home Tel: **Mob:** +44 7990 302755 **Email:** Ryan.Creeth@cranfield.ac.uk

Name of course studied:
PhD research student

Period studied	**From:** 01-04-2022	**To:** 01-04-2026

Qualification to be gained:
passed Viva with minor corrections on the 3rd of July, 2026

Project Title: DNA-free Genome Editing in Raspberry

Details of material submitted with nomination: (Project/Exec Summary/DVDs etc)

Cover letter and PhD abstract

SIGNED BY PROPOSER:	**DATE SUBMITTED:** 08/07/2026

If you wish to provide any additional information to support this nomination please do so in a covering letter. When complete, return this form, together with the supporting documents, to

The Secretariat, IAgrE, The Bullock Building (Bldg 53), University Way, Cranfield, Bedford MK43 0GH
secretary@iagre.org

NB All work submitted is treated with complete Confidentiality, no part of the paper will be published by IAgrE except for the Title and Name of the winner in each category.

Ryan had a challenging thesis project, to develop state of art gene editing in a genetically under-researched soft fruit species without any useful and relevant studies when he started, thus there was a great risk of failures along his project objectives. Despite starting from scratch, he did an excellent PhD, published one of his pioneering research work (https://doi.org/10.3389/fgeed.2025.1589431 reaching seven citation less than a year) and also wrote a related review study (https://doi.org/10.1007/s11240-026-03409-y).

He had great researcher attitude for the whole four years (also was the lead contact of the PhD students society in the University Theme), developing and executing experimental works with care (and with minimal supervision), preparing excellent seminars, oral or poster presentations (plus 3 minutes in ITV - https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2025-08-31/could-pioneering-gene-editing-cut-waste-and-make-raspberries-tastier), gaining great knowledge of the field which was rapidly expanding the last years, reaching out to the right colleagues to help his project, also contributed to a better equipped tissue culture lab in our university. There were many experimental issues along the tissue culture works, his ambitious and confident work ethic helped him to get through the difficult tasks and resulted in an excellent Viva and a patent filing (PCT/GB2026/050785).

Here is his PhD abstract:

“Red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) is a valuable fruit species with unique health benefits and increasing global consumption, however raspberry breeding remains arduous and imprecise. Genome editing is of great interest in raspberry as it would enable targeted and precise mutagenesis of the genome to enhance traits such as shelf life, disease resistance and cane architecture. The application of genome editing technology to raspberry breeding has been prevented thus far due to a lack of species-specific tissue culture methods. Crucially for commercial application, mutagenesis must not produce a transgenic plant to abide by recent legislative developments across Europe and to ameliorate enduring negative public sentiments towards genetically modified foods. This thesis presents novel methods for protoplast isolation, high efficacy DNA-free genome editing, and optimised protoplast culture in raspberry. These methods significantly increase the feasibility of DNA-free genome editing as a breeding technique in raspberry and offer a pathway to efficient and powerful trait enhancement in the species for the first time. Future work will involve the elucidation of a full protoplast regeneration method in raspberry and the optimisation of protoplast transfection to maximise gene editing efficiency in protoplasts. “

Request for Restricting Access to Thesis

This form should be completed by the student and supervisor.

The student should submit the completed form to Cranfield Student Records at registrysr@cranfield.ac.uk.

SECTION A: Student details

Name of student*: Ryan Creeth **Student ID number:** 385707

Degree title and course of study: PhD Agrifood

Current registration end date (month/year): April 2026

Thesis title: DNA-free Genome Editing in Raspberry
The thesis title cannot be restricted as it is recorded on certificates and/or transcripts. Make sure your thesis title is appropriate for this purpose.

*Where the request for thesis restriction applies to a whole cohort, Section A can be replaced with a spreadsheet containing the above information.

SECTION B: Restriction details

Reason for restriction - tick as appropriate

☐ **National** The thesis contains data relating to national security considerations.

☒ **Commercial** The thesis contains commercially sensitive data.

Why is the restriction is required? Thesis contains commercially sensitive information regarding elite raspberry cultivars and details on methods that are undergoing intellectual property protections

Restriction period

Cranfield University is committed to the principle of Open Access to support openness and transparency in research, as such any restriction period should be the minimum required. Any restriction on the publication of a thesis shall be for a specified period and start from a specified date. **Please provide a specified start date and length of restriction**.

Restrictions over 5 years require DoE/DoR approval.

Start date of restriction period (dd/mm/yyyy)**:** **01/04/2026**

Length of restriction in years: **5**

Type of restriction - tick as appropriate*

☐ **Fixed** Access to the thesis will automatically be granted at the end of the restriction period.

☒ **Review** Access to the thesis will be reviewed by the relevant point of contact identified below to determine if access can be granted.

*If neither is ticked, the restriction will be treated as Fixed

If Review, point of contact details:

Name	**Zoltan Kevei**
Post/Title or Authority	**lecturer**
Address	**FEAS, Cranfield University, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0AL**
Phone	**8312**
Email	**z.l.kevei@cranfield.ac.uk**

Name	
Post/Title or Authority	
Address	
Phone	
Email	

In the event that the point of contact or alternate cannot be contacted at that point the restriction will be handled as outlined below:

	Alternate	**No response received from point of contact or alternative**
National	DefSy (on behalf of MoD)	Restriction considered in light of legislative guidance
Commercial (External)	e.g. Chief Executive Office of relevant registered company or parent company	Open access granted
Commercial (Internal)	Vice-Chancellor's Office	Open access granted

Confirmation

I am content for the publication of my thesis to be restricted for the period indicated above, and understand that access will be granted or the restriction reviewed at the end of the specified period.

Student name: Ryan Creeth

Signature*: 

Date: 12/05/2026

Supervisor name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature: 

Date: Click or tap here to enter text.

DoE/DoR approval for restriction of over 5 years:

Signature:

Date:Click or tap here to enter text.

*The form should normally be signed by the student, a supervisor is permitted to sign on behalf of the student providing a reason for exceptional circumstances is provided

PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED FORM TO registrysr@cranfield.ac.uk

You do not need to send the form to your SAS team.