Invitation

The South Australian Government invites nominations for the 2017 South Australian Science Excellence Awards.

These Awards recognise and reward outstanding scientific endeavour, including its application in industry and the advancement of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

The Awards are a significant occasion in South Australia’s science calendar and are recognised as the premier science showcase event highlighting the diversity of scientific endeavour and research in this State.

The objectives of the awards are:

• to recognise excellence across a range of science and research activities
• to raise community awareness of the importance and relevance of science education
• to promote science and research as a professional career choice.
Eligibility
Past winners may not apply in the same category in subsequent years but may apply for other categories if they are eligible.

Previous nominees and finalists are eligible to reapply for the 2017 South Australian Science Excellence Awards.

Nominees must be Australian citizens or hold permanent residence status.

The majority of work or research for which you are nominating must have been undertaken in South Australia.

Conditions of entry
Before submitting your nomination, it is important that you understand your obligations upon nominating for the Awards.

The South Australian Government expects that all Awardees will from time to time assist in publicly promoting science and research as important contributors to South Australia’s economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

For this reason, Awardees should be prepared for the following:

• Undertake a small number of local public engagements in the year following their Award
• Asked to participate in public events, for example National Science Week, or at official events
• Photos of finalists and award recipients may be used by the South Australian Government for promotional purposes.

Definition
For the purposes of these awards, the term ‘science’ encompasses applied and pure science, including; engineering, new technologies and mathematics.

Enquiries
Web: www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au
Email: scienceawards@sa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 8207 8778
How to enter

- Read the nomination guidelines carefully as they contain important information on the Awards, categories, selection criteria and judging process.
- Review the eligibility requirements of each award category and make sure you are nominating in the correct category.
- Complete the online nomination form.

Each nomination must comprise the following:

- Completed online nomination form.
- A description addressing each selection criterion separately.
- A copy of the nominee’s current Curriculum Vitae (no more than 4 pages in length).
- It is imperative that the nominee gives consent to being part of this process. Please indicate the nominee’s acknowledgement by ticking the box on the nomination form.
- Nominations from universities must be endorsed by their University Research Office.
- Nominations from schools must be endorsed by their school Principal.
- Nominations from private industry must be endorsed by their employer.

Submitting your nomination

Closing Date

Nominations must be submitted online by 5pm (ACST) Friday 5 May 2017.

All nominations for the South Australian Science Excellence Awards will be submitted online via the ‘How to enter’ link on the website at: www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au.
**Award prizes**

**South Australian Scientist of the Year:**

One winner will be awarded in this category receiving a prize to the value of $25,000.

**All other categories:**

One winner will be awarded per category receiving a prize to the value of $10,000.

The cash prize associated with the Scientist of the Year Award is provided as recognition of outstanding achievement.

The Scientist of the Year Award recipient is free to use this prize for whatever purpose he or she chooses, provided its expenditure is in support of their continuing professional endeavours. In the event that an Awardee decides to use the prize beneficially for others (for example through the creation of a scholarship), he/she is asked to advise the Department of State Development of this decision.

The cash prizes associated with all other award categories are awarded in recognition of achievement. The award must be used to directly support the professional development of the awardee. This could include support for training in research management, conference support and travel, publication output or related. It must not be used for personal expenses which would otherwise be expected to be self-funded.

**Selection process**

The Department of State Development will manage and administer the selection process for the 2017 South Australian Science Excellence Awards.

Panels will include independent representatives from the science community, industry, corporate and education sectors. Selection will be based solely on the written information provided by the nominee.

Each nominee will be assessed by the judging panel against the selection criteria to determine the winner and finalists for each award category.

Finalists for the Scientist of the Year Award may be required to participate in an interview. This is at the discretion of the selection panel. The decision of the judging panel is final.

**Award presentation ceremony**

The 2017 South Australian Science Excellence Awards presentation ceremony will be held on Friday 11 August 2017 at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

All finalists will receive two complimentary tickets to the presentation ceremony. Additional tickets will be available for purchase in June.

It is a requirement that all finalists or their representative be present at the presentation ceremony and be available for promotional opportunities leading up to and following the Award presentation.

**Enquiries**

Web: www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au

Email: scienceawards@sa.gov.au

Phone: (08) 8207 8778
2017 Award Categories

South Australian Scientist of the Year

PhD Research Excellence

STEM Professional

STEM Educator of the Year
  - School Teaching
  - Tertiary Teaching

Excellence in Research Collaboration
South Australian Scientist of the Year Award

The South Australian Scientist of the Year will be awarded to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in a field of scientific endeavour.

The Scientist of the Year will also have made an outstanding contribution in providing leadership that has inspired others to become involved in science.

Selection criteria:

• Significant contribution of national and/or international standing in their field of research, providing evidence that their work has led to noteworthy change or achievement in the past 10 years

• Nominations where the majority of the work, as well as major achievements, were based in South Australia will be highly regarded

• Demonstrated capacity and track record in building, leading and mentoring successful teams (across disciplines or with potential user groups) and/or organisations and have a strong reputation amongst peers and stakeholders.

Additional eligibility requirements:

• Individuals from either the private, public or not-for-profit sectors are eligible to nominate

• Nominations must be based on achievement to date.

PHD Research Excellence Award

The PhD Research Excellence Award recognises outstanding achievement at the very early stage of an individual's research career.

Selection criteria:

• Evidence of research excellence during the completion of a PhD. Evidence may include but is not limited to publications or conference presentations, examiner’s review statements or any awards during and/or as a result of the research

• Evidence of significant research collaboration and networking. This may include an explanation of:
  • the approach taken to initiate the collaboration
  • the level of involvement of each of the partners in the collaborative venture collaborative partnerships might include: industry, corporate, government, education, community and/or other relevant organisations.

• Evidence of a highly promising future career. This may include the nominee’s technical and professional contributions, career promotion or level of company/institutional support.

Additional eligibility requirements:

• Nominees must have undertaken their PhD research within a South Australian higher education provider

• Nominees must have received their conferral of PhD degree no more than 12 months prior to the closure of nominations for these awards

• In general, the panel seeks nominations from researchers who have been publishing research for less than 10 years.
The STEM Professional Award recognise STEM professionals and researchers who are presently working in South Australia, either in the private sector companies or public sector agencies (but excluding universities or research institutes), and are making an outstanding contribution in their field.

The STEM Awards identify and promote professional excellence across the full spectrum of professional activities including research and development within STEM fields.

Selection criteria:

- Evidence of a significant contribution to your employer or wider industry.
- This can include: uniqueness and/or innovation of the contribution
- Evidence of collaboration within the industry sector and/or between sectors.

Additional eligibility requirements:

- Nominations must be based on achievement to date
- Nominations are to be endorsed by their employer.
The STEM Educator of the Year Award recognises effective teachers who are critical to successful science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and developing students’ knowledge and ability in STEM.

The STEM Educator of the Year is awarded in the following sub-categories:

- School Teaching
- Tertiary Teaching

**School Teaching Award**

The STEM Educator of the Year – School Teaching Award is open to individuals from the education sector (early childhood, primary or secondary, public and private sectors) who have made an outstanding contribution to the enhancement of student learning.

The School Teaching Award recipient will have inspired their students to become involved in high quality learning outcomes in science.

Note: As part of the judging process, the following criteria will be adapted to take into consideration the age of the nominee’s students and their learning needs.

**Selection criteria:**

- An innovative and imaginative approach to teaching STEM that motivates students to learn
- Active involvement in STEM education through teaching that reflects a command of the field and is evidenced by high standing in the professional community
- Demonstrated involvement in engaging students in STEM areas
- Demonstrated ability to develop students’ confidence and ability to use and apply STEM knowledge and processes.

**Additional eligibility requirements:**

- Individuals from either the private or public sectors are eligible to apply
- Nominations must be based on achievement to date
- Nominations are to be endorsed by the school Principal
- All nominees must be active in teaching STEM subjects in the classroom at the time of their nomination.

**Tertiary Teaching Award**

The STEM Educator of the Year – Tertiary Teaching Award is open to individuals from the VET and higher education sector who have made an outstanding contribution to the enhancement of student learning in STEM areas.

The Tertiary Teaching Awardee will have inspired his or her students to become involved in student-centred investigation in STEM areas, where students seek answers to scientific questions posed by themselves and set in real world contexts.

**Selection criteria:**

- An innovative and imaginative approach to teaching STEM that motivates students to learn
- Active involvement in STEM education through teaching that reflects a command of the field and is evidenced by high standing in the professional community
- Contribution to activities that have promoted an understanding of STEM and influenced and enhanced learning and teaching
- Demonstrated impact on students. This could be evidenced by increased enrolments in subject areas, number of graduates proceeding to STEM related careers or recognition from a professional body.

**Additional eligibility requirements:**

- Nominations must be based on achievement to date
- Nominations are to be endorsed current Heads of School
- All nominees must be active in teaching STEM subjects in the classroom at the time of their nomination.
**Excellence in Research Collaboration Award**

Open to collaborative consortia that have shown excellence in collaboration where a significant benefit has already been or is being delivered between researchers and users of research which could lead to economic, social or environmental benefits for South Australia.

**Selection criteria**

- Successful recruitment of organisational partners into a sustained, collaborative relationship
- Demonstrated partnerships to foster innovation and collaboration between researchers and users of research, identifying:
  - the approach taken to initiate the collaboration
  - who is involved in the collaboration and what their role is
- The partnership should endeavour to include, but is not limited to government, industry or community and/or other relevant organisations
- Demonstrated transfer of research knowledge and outcomes to end user benefit by focussing on uptake of knowledge by enterprise, industry and community
- Research has generated or has the potential to generate significant economic, social or environmental benefit to South Australia
- Examples include improvements in public health or in key environmental indicators, or acceptance by the government of reports and/or recommendations
- Demonstrated ability to communicate science effectively and engage audiences through written and oral presentations
- There are no restrictions as to when the achievement was accomplished; however all nominees (either single or collective) must hold a current active position in research, academia or the private sector.

**Freedom of Information**

Nominees are informed that the Department of State Development is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, which provides a general right of access to records held by South Australian State agencies.

Nominees should be aware that information pertaining to the receipt of State Government financial support may be tabled in the South Australian Parliament. This information could include names of recipients, the amounts of financial support, the name of the project/activity and, possibly, a brief description thereof. This could result in requests for more detail to be released publicly. Further information can be obtained from the Freedom of Information Officer at the following address:

**Accredited Freedom of Information Officer,**
Office of the Chief Executive
Department of State Development
GPO Box 320
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Ph: 08 8226 3821

**Conflict of Interest**

Nominees are required to disclose any information that may give rise to a potential conflict of interest.

**Closing Date**

Nominations must be submitted online by 5pm (ACST) Friday 5 May 2017

www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au
Follow us on twitter @StateDevSA and use #SAScienceAwards