

## **ECU Alumni Awards 2026 Information and Guidelines**

The ECU Alumni Awards have been created by ECU as a mechanism for the University to recognise the success of its graduates.

The Awards are arranged in five categories:

- Young Alumni Award
- International Alumni Award
- Community and Impact Alumni Award
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alumni Award and
- Distinguished Alumni Award

Success in each of these categories is judged against the criteria listed in Appendix 1 of this document.

### **Eligibility**

- Nominees must be a graduate of ECU or one of its antecedent institutions.
- Nominees must not be employed as a current staff member of ECU.
- Former staff and Honorary Award recipients are eligible but must have also completed a course of study with ECU.
- Self-nominations will not be considered.
- Posthumous nominations will not be considered.
- Nominees of the Young Alumni Award must be under the age of 35 as of the close of nomination deadline on 1 May 2026.
- Nominees of the International Alumni Awards must have lived and worked in a country outside Australia for at least the last five years or be undertaking work that has a significant international impact. The nominee does not need to originate from a country outside Australia.

### **Applications process**

The applications process is as follows:

1. Alumni are nominated via an online form on the ECU website
2. The Office of Development and Alumni Relations excludes any ineligible nominations and performs due diligence on the nominations to be put forward to the panel.
3. All nominations are submitted to the Alumni Awards panel for their consideration.

4. Recommendations will be made by the Alumni Awards Panel to the Vice-Chancellor for approval.

5. Following approval by the Vice-Chancellor, Award winners are notified in writing by the Vice-Chancellor and are invited to accept their Award at a ceremony.

### **Decision Making**

- The decision making will be made through the consideration and recommendations of the Alumni Awards panel with the final winners approved by the Vice-Chancellor.
- The decision of the Vice-Chancellor is final; there is no appeals process.

### **Other information**

- Nominators will be notified of the outcome of their nomination, whether successful or unsuccessful, at the conclusion of the award process. ECU will not contact nominees unless the nomination is successful.
- Nominations should remain confidential throughout the process; we advise not communicating with the nominee that they have been nominated.
- ECU reserves the right at its sole discretion, to not accept a nomination.
- An ECU Alumni Award bestowed on a graduate at any time over the life the Awards and in any category may be rescinded at the discretion of the University.
- Anyone (staff, student, alumni, community) can put forward a nomination.
- Nominations must be submitted using the ECU Alumni Award Nomination Forms and received by the nominated deadline. In 2026, this will be midnight WST Friday 1 May.
- All nominations and supporting documentation are confidential.
- Information provided will be handled in line with ECU's privacy policy.
- A graduate can only win one Award in any three-year period.
- The referee should be a person of suitable standing, who is appropriately qualified to act as referee for the nominee.
- Nominations will be judged against the criteria outlined in Appendix 1, below.
- A maximum of one winner will be awarded in each category annually. ECU reserves the right to not award in any or all of the categories should there be no suitable nominees.
- Award recipients will receive a non-cash Award presented to them at the award ceremony.

## **Appendix 1: JUDGING CRITERIA**

### **Young Alumni Award**

Celebrating the bold vision, passion, and achievements of ECU's young leaders who are already making a difference and achieving significant impact in their industries and communities. This award honours graduates under the age of 35.

It is open to all alumni under the age of 35 on 1 May 2025.

- Age - nominees must be under the age of 35 at the date of nominations closing.
- Achievement within their profession - nominees must be able to demonstrate an ongoing and high level of achievement in their profession, which raises their profile and standing within that industry.
- Leadership qualities – nominees must be able to demonstrate leadership in a variety of contexts, including as a volunteer, within the community or through their profession.
- Positive impact – the nominee's work, either professional or volunteering, should demonstrate a positive impact that has been felt by many – locally, nationally and/or internationally.

### **International Alumni Award**

Honouring ECU graduates who are making a powerful impact on the world stage. This award celebrates alumni who have spent at least five years abroad or are driving global change from Australia, shaping industries, communities, and lives beyond borders.

- Location - nominees must currently be based in a country outside Australia and have lived and worked outside Australia for at least five years, or living in Australia but undertaking work which has had a significant global impact.
- Achievement within their profession - nominees must be able to demonstrate an ongoing and high level of achievement in their profession, which raises their profile and standing within that industry
- Leadership qualities – nominees must be able to demonstrate leadership in a variety of contexts, including as a volunteer, within the community or through their profession.
- Global impact – the nominee's work, either professional or volunteering, should demonstrate a positive impact that has been felt by many internationally.

### **Community and Impact Alumni Award**

Recognising alumni who are driving positive change through leadership in equality, diversity, and social responsibility. This award honours those making a lasting impact in their communities and beyond, creating a more inclusive and compassionate world.

- Leadership in the community – nominees must be able to demonstrate significant dedication to or impact upon the community or specific groups (such as those outlined above), either through their profession or volunteerism.
- Achievement within their profession – nominees must be able to demonstrate a consistent level of achievement in their profession, which raises their profile and standing within that industry.
- Positive impact – the nominee’s work, either professional or volunteering, should demonstrate a positive impact that has been felt by many – locally, nationally and/or internationally.

### **Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alumni Award**

This award honours visionary Alumni who have demonstrated exceptional creativity and leadership, whose entrepreneurial spirit and innovative thinking has led to impactful breakthroughs and sustainable success.

- Achievement within their profession – nominees must be able to demonstrate an ongoing and high level of achievement in their profession, which raises their profile and standing within that industry.
- Creativity and originality – nominees should be able to demonstrate the uniqueness of an idea, concept or creation which is imaginative and willing to challenge the existing norm or approach.
- Leadership qualities – nominees must be able to demonstrate leadership in a variety of contexts, including as a volunteer, within the community or through their profession.
- Positive impact – the nominee’s work, either professional or volunteering, should demonstrate a positive impact that has been felt by many – locally, nationally and/or internationally.

### **Distinguished Alumni Award**

ECU's highest alumni honour, celebrating an exceptional graduate whose leadership, innovation, and dedication have made a lasting impact in their field. This award recognises those who have achieved sustained excellence, creating positive change locally, nationally, and globally.

- Sustained and significant contribution to their profession - nominees must be able to demonstrate an ongoing and high level of achievement in their profession, which raises their profile and standing within that industry.
- Distinction – the nominee, through their prominence in their field, would bring great distinction to ECU.
- Leadership qualities – nominees must be able to demonstrate significant leadership in a variety of contexts, including as a volunteer, within the community or through their profession.
- Positive impact – the nominee's work, either professional or volunteering, should demonstrate a positive impact that has been felt by many – locally, nationally and/or internationally.

### **Appendix 2: EXAMPLE EVIDENCE**

Through the nomination form, any of the below may be provided as evidence of how the nominee meets the criteria (this list is not exhaustive):

- Advanced qualifications and/or recognised significant experience
- Leadership roles and membership of professional associations
- Number and range of publications/editorship of journals/presentation of papers at national/international conferences
- Number and range of consultancies/guest speaker/lectures achieved
- Recognition by peers/professional associations/international organisations
- Development and management of major projects
- Quality and range of research or scholarly achievement
- Number and range of grants/commissions/consultancies obtained
- Practical application to field/industry/government/professions

- Recognition by government/business/industry/community/media and overseas organisations
- Leadership roles in a community/volunteer context

