

## Guide for Nominators

### 1. What are the Vice Chancellor's Student Awards?

One award will be granted annually in each category to a student or a student team, who demonstrate outstanding achievements against the respective award criteria.

### 2. What are the 2026 Award categories?

**Vice-Chancellor's Student Award for Contribution to University Life** is awarded to recognise a student, or a student team, who have significantly enhanced the student experience through exceptional dedication, leadership, and service within the University community.

**Vice-Chancellor's Student Award for Community Engagement** is awarded to recognise a student, or a student team, who has demonstrated outstanding engagement with external communities which aligns with ECU's strategic goals and values by transforming lives and enriching society.

**Vice-Chancellor's Student Award for Reconciliation** is awarded to recognise a student, or a student team, who has demonstrated outstanding contribution to develop an equitable community that values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and knowledge.

**Vice-Chancellor's Student Award for Outstanding Research** is presented to recognise a higher degree by research candidate, or higher degree by research candidate team, who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in research through originality, rigour, innovation and creativity, contributing to the advancement of knowledge.

**Vice-Chancellor's Student Award for Research Impact** is awarded to recognise a higher degree by research candidate, or higher degree by research candidate team, whose research has made a significant and measurable contribution beyond academia, influencing practice, policy, or community outcomes in ways that align with ECU's commitment to transforming lives and enriching society.

**Vice-Chancellor's Student Award for ECU Career Ready Employability** is awarded to recognise a student, or a student team, who has demonstrated strong commitment to their future career through active participation in career development initiatives and student leadership, enhancing their employability skills and professional readiness.

### 3. What are the Award benefits?

For each of the awards, the winning student or student team, will receive:

- \$5,000 monetary prize
- A trophy
- A certificate

Special commendations, accompanied by an appropriate certificate, may be made to nominated students who are not award recipients, but who are considered particularly meritorious.

### 4. Who can nominate?

University students, staff, and representative bodies external to the University.

## 5. Who can be nominated?

- Any student or a student team who meets the eligibility criteria
- A student or student team may be nominated for more than one award
- Previous award recipients are eligible for nomination

## 6. What are the eligibility criteria?

- The nominee/s must be enrolled in at least one unit at the time of nomination
- The nominee/s must have good academic standing
- All award recipients will have demonstrated behaviour that is consistent with the University's values of Integrity, Respect, Rational Inquiry, Personal Excellence and Courage

## 7. How are nominations assessed?

Nominations are evaluated by a committee of staff and students and award recipients selected based on the below considerations.

- Depth of impact - the degree of change and/or influence achieved
- Breadth of impact – the reach of change and/or influence achieved
- Sustainability of impact – the expected longevity of the change and/or influence achieved
- Relevance of impact – the extent to which change and/or influence achieved aligns with award purpose, ECU's strategic goals and ECU's values of Integrity, Respect, Rational Inquiry, Personal Excellence and Courage

*Note: where students are in paid roles, nominations will be evaluated based on the degree to which the contribution of the nominee extends beyond reasonably expected paid work contributions*

## 8. How do I nominate?

- Complete the award nomination form
- Obtain the required endorsement and [submit the nomination form](#), with up to 4 supporting documents, by 11:59pm on the 28th of August 2026
- Late or amended applications will not be accepted after the closing date

## 9. What supporting documentation can be provided with the nomination form?

You may include supporting documentation such as reports, newspaper cuttings, certificates, referee reports etc. The supporting documents should not exceed four pages.

## 10. Who should endorse the nomination?

All nominations must be endorsed by the relevant Dean of School or Centre Director for the student or student team who is being nominated, prior to submission.

If a nominator is external to the University (not familiar with the university/staff) then the nominator will need to forward their nomination directly to the student they are nominating.