

Alumni Awards Information and Guidelines

The ECU Alumni Awards have been created by ECU under the guidance of the Vice-Chancellor, and are a mechanism for the University to recognise the success of its graduates. The Awards are arranged in four categories: Young Alumni Award, International Alumni Award, Community and Impact 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, although those attached to the University in unpaid roles such as adjuncts are eligible.
- Former staff and Honorary Award recipients are eligible but must have also completed a course of study with ECU.
- Self-nominations are permissible, but must be signed by a referee who is not a family member of the nominee.
- 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. This year that date is 6 May 2024.
- Nominees of the International Alumni Awards must have lived and worked in a country outside Australia for at least the last five years. 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 Nomination Forms, and submitted to alumni@ecu.edu.au.
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. In 2024, this ceremony is planned for November.

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 Form and received by the nominated deadline. In 2024, this will be midnight WST, Monday 6 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

The Young Alumni Award recognises the outstanding early achievements of young leaders, innovators, creators and entrepreneurs who are inspiring the next generation of future leaders.

- **Age** - nominees must be under the age of 35.
- **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.
- **Referees** – the nominee's referees should exhibit significant status, relevance and/or substance in any arena.

International Alumni award

This Award celebrates ECU graduates living abroad who are making positive impacts and significant contributions to the culture, community and/or economy of the places in which they live and work. Recipients of this award demonstrate exceptional achievement in their chosen field and whose accomplishments raise the profile of their profession and ECU.

- **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.
- **Referees** – the nominee’s referees should exhibit significant status, relevance and/or substance in any arena

Community and Impact Award

This Award recognises and celebrates alumni who are making extraordinary impacts and contributions to their communities in the fields of equality, diversity and social responsibility, particularly in initiatives related to low SES (socio-economic status) communities, those living with disabilities, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities, or gender equality.

- **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
- **Referees** – the nominee’s referees should exhibit significant status, relevance and/or substance in any arena

Distinguished Alumni award

This Distinguished Alumni Award recognises a distinguished individual who has demonstrated an extraordinary contribution to their industry, profession or field with far-reaching and positive impacts locally, nationally and/or internationally.

- **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
- **Referees** – the nominee’s referees should exhibit significant status, relevance and/or substance in any arena

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