20 SA Science Excellence + Innovation Awards

South Australia's most prestigious science excellence and innovation awards are now open.



The South Australian Government invites nominations for the 2020 South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards.

Nominations for individuals and teams from diverse backgrounds across the state are welcomed.

These annual awards recognise South Australian individuals and teams that have demonstrated outstanding leadership, entrepreneurship and scientific contributions to the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM).

The objectives of the South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards are to:

- celebrate the importance of excellence, collaboration, innovation and translation of work across STEMM fields for a healthy economy, environment and community
- recognise outstanding leadership shown by individuals and teams in STEMM research, innovation and education
- highlight the importance and relevance of STEMM education in a changing world
- showcase the importance and diversity of STEMM professionals and careers in the current and future workforce.

Stay connected on all things science



Twitter: @sachiefsci - search #SAScienceAwards



LinkedIn: Chief Scientist for South Australia





This is an exciting time to be in South Australia, as collaborations between STEMM researchers, educators, innovators and industry deliver strong economic, environmental and social outcomes for our communities and place South Australia on the global stage as *the* State of Science.

Prof. Caroline McMillen
Chief Scientist for South Australia

2020 Award Categories

There are 6 Award categories:

South Australian Scientist of the Year

South Australian Innovator or Innovation Team of the Year

STEMM Educator of the Year

- Primary or Secondary School Level
- University or Registered Training Organisation

Excellence in Science and Industry
Collaboration

PhD Research Excellence

Awards

Award recipients are publicly recognised and celebrated for their achievements. Each recipient or team receives a trophy designed by a local artist and a monetary award with a total value of:

- \$25,000 each for the Scientist of the Year and for the Innovator or Innovation Team of the Year
- \$10,000 each for the STEMM Educator of the Year (two prizes), Excellence in Science and Industry Collaboration Award and PhD Research Excellence Award.

The monetary award for a team will usually be shared equally by all team members unless otherwise agreed with the Department for Innovation and Skills following review of the application.

Award money must be used for recipients' professional development activities. For example, this may include support for leadership and/or management, business development, conference support, including travel, or support for publication outputs. Awards may not be used for personal expenses, which would otherwise be expected to be self-funded.

In the event that an Award recipient wishes to use the prize for the benefit of others – for example, by creating a scholarship – they must first consult with the Department for Innovation and Skills.



There are two ways to nominate for an Award.

Self-nomination:

- Review the eligibility criteria.
- Ensure you are nominating in the correct category.
- Read and agree to the conditions of entry.
- Complete the online self-nomination form addressing each selection criterion.
- Provide a copy your curriculum vitae (CV) or copies of current CVs for each team member where the application is for a team award – all CVs should be abbreviated to no more than four (4) pages.
- Nominations from staff or students from:
 - universities must be endorsed by their Deputy Vice Chancellor Research (DVCR) or Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic (DVCA)
 - Registered Training Organisation must be endorsed by their Education Manager
 - schools must be endorsed by their school Principal
- Nominations from industry must be endorsed by their employer.

Nomination of others:

- Provide a short endorsement which explains why you are nominating the person or team.
- Complete the online nomination form
 'Nominating Others', including contact details
 for the person or team you wish to nominate.
 Note that the person or team will receive
 an email advising them of your nomination
 and inviting them to continue the nomination
 process as above.

All nominations must be submitted online via the 'How to nominate' link on the website at

www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au

Selection process

- The Office of the Chief Scientist and the Department for Innovation and Skills manage and administer the selection process for the 2020 South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards.
- Nominations will be reviewed by independent selection panels (Panel). Assessment will be based solely on the written information provided by the nominee.
- Each nominee will be assessed by the Panel against the selection criteria to determine the Award recipient (Winner) and short-listed finalists (Finalists) for each award category.
- During the selection process, the employer representatives of Finalists may be contacted to confirm relevant details within an application where appropriate.
- Finalists may also be required to participate in an interview, which will be at the discretion of the Panel. The decision of the Panel is final.

Award presentation ceremony

- The 2020 South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards presentation ceremony will be held on Friday 14 August 2020 at the Adelaide Convention Centre.
- All individual Finalists will receive two complimentary tickets to the presentation ceremony. All team Finalists will receive a maximum of four (4) complimentary tickets at the discretion of the Department for Innovation and Skills. Additional tickets will be available for purchase.
- It is a requirement that all Finalists or their representatives attend the presentation ceremony and be available for promotional opportunities leading up to and following the Award presentation.





Conditions of entry

By entering the 2020 SA Science Excellence and Innovation Awards, you agree to abide by the following conditions of entry:

- Closing date for entries is 5pm ACST Friday,
 24 April 2020. No extensions will be provided.
- Nominees must be Australian citizens or hold permanent resident status.
- Nominees must be eligible for entry according to specific award category criteria. Noncompliance with entry criteria will be sufficient grounds for the Department for Innovation and Skills (the Department) to reject the nomination.
- Nominees enter on the understanding that the Department or its nominee reserves the right to alter, vary and/or modify any prize or condition of entry and reserves the right to make any new conditions.
- The Department reserves the right to revoke an Award in particular circumstances as outlined in the Award revocation policy.
- The Department reserves the right to use non-confidential details and/or photographs and/or film footage for any publicity purpose pertaining to promoting the South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards as important contributors to South Australia's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

- Award recipients and Finalists may be required to undertake a number of local public events and engagements in the year following their award, such as National Science Week, or to present addresses at official events.
- Nominees must abide by the decisions of the Department or its nominee, whose decision shall be final on all matters pertaining to the Award. No correspondence or justification for any decision shall be required of the Department.
- Past Award recipients (Winners) cannot 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 2020 South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards.
- The majority of the Nominee's work or research should have been undertaken in South Australia.





South Australian Scientist of the Year

Awarded to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in any STEMM field. The Scientist of the Year will also have made an outstanding contribution in providing leadership that has inspired others.

Eligibility

- Individuals from either the private, public or not-for-profit sectors are eligible to nominate.
- Nominations must be based on achievement to date.

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

Significant international contributions made in their field, providing evidence of the recognition of the global impact of the research by peers and stakeholders.

Criteria 2

Demonstrated track record of excellence as a leader within or beyond their field of research. This may include examples of:

- building, leading and mentoring successful teams
- leading successful collaborations either across disciplinary fields, engagement with industry, other public organisations or end users of research
- contributions to activities which shape the future of individuals or communities, or the future directions of their field.

Criteria 3

In addition to the above, any other evidence of the benefits (e.g. environmental, social, health and economic) of the translation of research to South Australia from these activities



South Australian Innovator of the Year

This Award recognises individuals or teams presently working in South Australia, either in the private or public sector, who have harnessed work in any STEMM field to develop new-to-world or new-to-industry products, processes or services, or delivered innovation that has changed practice and resulted in significant outcomes in other fields.

Eligibility

- Individuals or teams from either the private, public or not-for-profit sectors are eligible to nominate.
- Nominations must be based on achievement to date
- Where a team is nominated, all individuals must meet the eligibility criteria, and a high level of collaboration must be demonstrated for the nomination to be eligible.

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

Demonstrate innovation and translation, outlining:

- a summary of the problem being addressed
- a description of the endpoint of the work, including any novel elements that were required to address the key problem.

Criteria 2

Outline who was involved in the team and their role(s).

Criteria 3

Describe how this innovation delivered a positive impact, and provide evidence.



STEMM Educator of the Year

The STEMM Educator of the Year Award recognises teachers who have made an outstanding contribution to STEMM education.

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

- Primary or Secondary School Level
- University or Registered Training Organisation

STEMM Educator of the Year – Primary or Secondary School Level

The STEMM Educator of the Year– Primary or Secondary School Level is open to individuals from the education sector (early childhood, primary or secondary, public and private sectors) who have made an outstanding contribution to enhancing student learning and have inspired their students to engage actively in STEMM.

Eligibility

- Individuals from either the private or public sectors are eligible.
- Nominations must be based on achievement to date.
- Nominations are to be endorsed by the school Principal.
- All nominees should be active in teaching STEMM subjects in the classroom at the time of their nomination or provide an explanation where this is not the case.

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

Criteria 1

An innovative and imaginative approach to teaching STEMM that motivates students to learn.

Criteria 2

Active involvement in STEMM education through teaching that reflects a command of the field and is evidenced by high standing in the professional community.

Criteria 3

Demonstrated ability to develop students' confidence and use and apply STEMM knowledge and processes.



STEMM Educator of the Year cont.

STEMM Educator of the Year – University or Registered Training Organisation

The STEMM Educator of the Year – University or Registered Training Organisation Award is open to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to enhancing student learning in STEMM areas.

The Award recipient will have inspired their students to become involved in student-centred investigation in STEMM areas, where students seek answers to scientific questions posed by themselves and set in real-world contexts.

Eligibility

- Nominations are to be endorsed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic (university) or Education Manager (Registered Training Organisation).
- All nominees must be active in teaching STEMM subjects at the time of their nomination or provide an explanation where this is not the case.

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

An innovative and imaginative approach to teaching STEMM that motivates students to learn.

Criteria 2

Active involvement in STEMM (or related subjects) education through teaching that reflects a command of the field and is evidenced by high standing in the professional community.

Criteria 3

Contribution to activities that have promoted an understanding of STEMM and influenced and enhanced learning and teaching.

Criteria 4

Demonstrated impact on students. This could be evidenced through:

- increased enrolments in subject areas
- number of graduates proceeding to STEMM related careers
- recognition from a professional body
- other measurable outcomes.





Excellence in Science and Industry Collaboration

Open to teams that have harnessed innovative and productive models of STEMM and industry collaboration which may lead to positive economic, social or environmental impact.

Eligibility

- Team members from either the private, public or not-for-profit sectors are eligible to nominate.
- Nominations must be based on achievement to date.
- There are no restrictions as to when the achievement was accomplished.
- The partnership should endeavour to include, but is not limited to, government, industry or other relevant organisations.

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

Outline a summary of the collaborative project that resulted in this effective partnership between industry and research to drive innovation, describing specifically:

- the science excellence involved in the collaboration, and providing evidence
- who was involved in the team and their role
- the partnership model, how it began and why it is novel or innovative
- the benefits and challenges of the industry/ research collaboration.

Criteria 2

Outline how the collaboration has generated or has the potential to generate significant economic, social, health or environmental benefit to South Australia. Examples may include improvements in public health or in key environmental indicators, or acceptance by policy makers of reports and/or recommendations arising from the collaboration.

Criteria 3

Outline any effective strategies used to connect partners from different sectors to engage in the collaboration.



PhD Research Excellence Award

This Award recognises recent PhD graduates who have demonstrated outstanding research achievement in any STEMM field. Nominees are encouraged to discuss the potential longer term impact of their work within and beyond their field.

Eligibility

- Nominees must have undertaken their PhD research within a South Australian higher education provider.
- Nominees must have received their conferral of a PhD degree no more than 24 months prior to the closure of nominations for these awards

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

Evidence of research excellence during the completion of a PhD. This may include but is not limited to:

- the quality of research publications or conference papers as appropriate
- a statement of support from the primary supervisor
- awards, honours and recognition by peers, external bodies, community, etc.

Criteria 2

Evidence of research engagement and collaboration. This may include an explanation of:

- the approach taken to initiate engagement with potential research partners
- the level of involvement of partners outside research in a collaborative venture.

Criteria 3

In addition to the above, any other evidence of recognition of leadership contributions and potential career success. This may include:

- demonstration and/or recognition of leadership attributes within or outside the field of research during the PhD
- indicators of career progression.

It is also a recognition and a celebration of 30 years of international leadership and enviable success of Adelaide and South Australia in the field of genetics of learning disabilities, epilepsies, autisms or cerebral palsies.

Being named the 2019 South Australian Scientist of the Year has been a great privilege and a special honour for me and for my past and present colleagues.

Growing up in an underprivileged background in an eastern Europe communist country I could never have dreamt about doing what I am doing now. But it happened and I also want to make sure it can and does happen to anyone who wants to be a scientist whatever their background is. I am passionate about equal opportunity and in particular in education.

PROFESSOR JOZEF GECZ



20 SA Science Excellence + Innovation Awards

Stay connected on all things science



Twitter: @sachiefsci - search #SAScienceAwards



In LinkedIn: Chief Scientist for South Australia

www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au

