



2019

**SA Science
Excellence
Awards**

15 years

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

Nomination
Guidelines

Invitation

The South Australian Government invites nominations for the 2019 South Australian Science Excellence Awards.

The 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 and,
- to promote science and research as a professional career choice.

Stay connected on all things science



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LinkedIn: Chief Scientist for South Australia



Professor Richard Hillis

2018 South Australian Scientist of the Year



2019 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

Award prizes

South Australian Scientist of the Year

The winner of this category will receive a cash prize to the value of \$25,000.

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 or she is asked to advise the Department for Industry and Skills of this decision.

All other categories

Winners of all other categories will receive a cash prize to the value of \$10,000.

The prize money 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.

Ms Sue O'Malley
2018 STEM Educator of the Year
– School Teaching

How to enter

- Review the eligibility criteria
- Ensure you are nominating in the correct category
- Read and agree to the conditions of entry
- Complete the online nomination form addressing each selection criterion
- Provide a copy of your current Curriculum Vitae (no more than 4 pages)
- 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.

All nominations for the South Australian Science Excellence Awards need to be submitted online via the 'How to enter' link on the website at www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au

Selection process

The Department for Industry and Skills will manage and administer the selection process for the 2019 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 2019 South Australian Science Excellence Awards presentation ceremony will be held on Friday 9 August 2019 at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

All finalists will receive one complimentary ticket to the presentation ceremony. Additional tickets will be available for purchase.

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.



Conditions of entry

By entering the 2019 SA Science Excellence Awards, you agree to abide by the following conditions of entry:

- Closing date for entries is **5pm Friday, 26 April 2019**. No extensions will be provided.
- Applicants must be Australian citizens or hold permanent resident status.
- Nominees must be eligible for entry according to specific award category criteria. Non-compliance with entry criteria will be sufficient grounds for the Department for Industry 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.
- If any award winner receives a prize and is subsequently discovered to be ineligible for the award, the Department reserves the right to recover the prize from the applicant.
- 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 SA Science Excellence Awards, science and research and the teaching of science, as important contributors to South Australia's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.
- Nominee may be required to undertake a small 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.
- Failure of an applicant to follow any lawful direction of the Department, or its nominee, shall mean instant disqualification and instant forfeiture of any award whether or not any award benefit has commenced, has not commenced, or has commenced but has not been completed. No applicants shall have any right to seek compensation or otherwise claim for compensation and the nomination form is submitted on the express understanding that the candidate waives any right to claim for compensation.
- Applicants 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 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 2019 South Australian Science Excellence Awards.
- The majority of work or research for which you are nominating, must have been undertaken in South Australia.

Definition

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

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.

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 significance and global impact of the research, particularly in the last ten (10) years

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
- bringing teams together from across disciplines, end users and/or organisations
- recognition amongst peers and stakeholders
- contributions to activities which shape the future of individuals, communities or the future directions of their field.

Criteria 3

In addition to the above, any other evidence of the benefits to South Australia (environmental, social and economic) from these activities





Dr Katharina Richter

2018 PhD Research Excellence winner

PhD Research Excellence Award

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

Eligibility

- 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
- Nominations are sought from researchers who have been publishing for less than ten years

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

Evidence of research excellence during the completion of a PhD.

This may include but is not limited to:

- publications or conference presentations
- examiner's review statements
- any awards received during and/or as a result of the research

Criteria 2

Evidence of research engagement and collaboration.

This may include an explanation of:

- the approach taken to initiate engagement with potential partners within or beyond your field
- the level of involvement of partners in a collaborative venture. These partnerships could include: industry, corporate, government, education, community and/or other relevant organisations

Criteria 3

In addition to the above, any other evidence of a highly promising future career.

This may include:

- awards, honours and recognition by communities and external bodies etc
- career promotion or level of company/institutional support
- recognition for leadership attributes within or outside your field of research

STEM Professional Award

The STEM Professional Award recognise STEM professionals and researchers who are presently working in South Australia, either in the private or public sector (but excluding universities or research institutes) who are making an outstanding contribution in their field.

This award identifies and promotes professional excellence across research and development activities in STEM fields.

Eligibility

- Nominations must be based on achievement to date
- Nominations are to be endorsed by their employer.

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

Evidence of significance and impact of your contribution to your employer or wider industry.

This can include:

- uniqueness and/or innovation of the contribution

Criteria 2

Provide evidence of collaboration within the industry sector and/or between sectors.

Criteria 3

in addition to the above, any other evidence of the benefits to South Australia (environmental, social and economic) from your work, collaborations and community engagement.

STEM Educator of the Year

The STEM Educator of the Year Award recognises effective teachers who are critical to successful 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.

Eligibility

- 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.

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 STEM that motivates students to learn

Criteria 2

Active involvement in STEM 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 ability to use and apply STEM knowledge and processes.

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.

Eligibility

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

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

An innovative and imaginative approach to teaching STEM that motivates students to learn

Criteria 2

Active involvement in STEM 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 STEM and influenced and enhanced learning and teaching

Criteria 4

Demonstrated impact on students.

This could be evidenced by:

- Increased enrolments in subject areas
- Number of graduates proceeding to STEM related careers
- Recognition from a professional body

Excellence in Research Collaboration

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.

Eligibility

- 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
- The partnership should endeavour to include, but is not limited to government, industry or community and/or other relevant organisations

Selection Criteria

Criteria 1

- Demonstrated partnerships to foster innovation and collaboration between researchers and users of research, outlining:
 - A summary of the project
 - The idea
 - The partnership
 - Who was involved in the collaboration and their role

Criteria 2

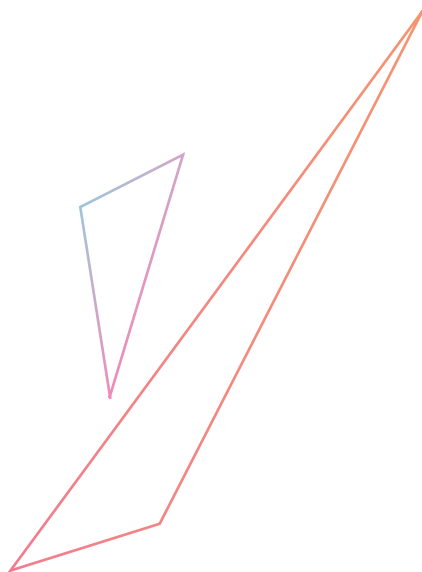
- Demonstrated translation of research outcomes to 'end user benefit' by focussing on uptake of knowledge by enterprise, industry and community

Criteria 3

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

Criteria 4

- Outline how the research was communicated and how the audience was effectively engaged





The Aboriginal Heritage Project
2018 Excellence in Research Collaboration winner



Dr Justin Chalker

The Award also provides excellent support for undergraduate research and scholarship, helping me to expand my capabilities in teaching in the research lab.

**Winner of the 2018 STEM
Educator of the Year –
Tertiary Teaching Award**

The SA Science Excellence Awards are a fantastic way to celebrate success in science in the broadest sense. I am especially proud of winning the 2018 STEM Educator of the Year Tertiary Teaching Award because it was an external validation that teaching and research can go hand-in-hand. Specifically, I am a strong proponent of undergraduate research and using this exploratory experience as a medium to teach science.

As I often say, what better way to learn science than by doing science? The Award also provides excellent support for undergraduate research and scholarship, helping me to expand my capabilities in teaching in the research lab. This year, I am also using a portion of the funding to organise a conference celebrating young student scientists. My aim is to support undergraduate and post-graduate students and their learning journey.

15years

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Stay connected on all things science

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www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au



Government of
South Australia