

Tasmanian STEM Early Career Researcher of the Year Award 2026

Guidelines and application form



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The awards

The Premier's Tasmanian STEM Early Career Researcher of the Year Award 2026 (the Award) recognises the achievements of the state's leading early career researchers working in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) researchers and highlights the importance of innovation in growing Tasmania's community and economy.

Supported by the Tasmanian Government, Inspiring Australia, and the University of Tasmania, the Award will recognise an individual's academic achievement during the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years.

The Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards provide the finalists with an excellent opportunity to build networks and relationships, and to raise their profile. The Award, consisting of a \$5,000 cheque and trophy, will be presented at the Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards reception on 10 November 2026.

Benefits to the winner and nominees

The benefits from participating in the Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards are numerous.

The Awards provide:

- recognition and exposure for participating companies and individuals
- opportunities for networking and forming business and research alliances amongst participants, including other industry representatives, academics and teachers
- a platform for participants to benchmark their products and services
- a 'showcase of success stories' for Tasmanian firms and individuals that are developing innovative STEM research outcomes
- media exposure for products, participating firms and individuals.

How to apply

To enter the Tasmanian STEM Early Career Researcher of the Year Award, complete this application form and submit it to the Manager of Inspiring Australia Tasmania by:

6:00 pm Sunday, 27 September 2026.

Eligibility

Applications are invited from individuals employed and/or undertaking STEM research activities in Tasmania. Individuals from research agencies and statutory authorities funded by the Tasmanian Government are eligible whereas those from state government departments are not. Applicants of this award may not apply

for the Premier's Tasmanian STEM Researcher of the Year Award in the same year.

Applicants should hold a PhD, attained no more than 10 years before the current financial year.

Career interruptions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis consistent with the [ARC DECRA scheme](#), please contact the IA Manager to discuss before submission.

Previous winners of this category are not eligible to apply, but previous applicants are invited to re-apply.

Judging

The judging panel members will be selected on the basis of their knowledge and expertise in the STEM research development fields.

Selection criteria

The Award will be presented to an early career STEM researcher who has shown excellence in a STEM research area over the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years. Achievements outside this timeframe will not be considered during assessment. In making its selection, the judging panel will consider the attributes of the applicant, the merit of the applicant's achievements and the potential of their research to positively impact on both the Tasmanian community and economic development.

Other conditions

As a successful recipient of the Award, you may be invited to serve on the judging panel for that award category in the year following your attainment of the award. You may also be invited by the Tasmanian Government, Inspiring Australia, and the University of Tasmania to take part in a limited number of STEM engagement events, such as Science Meets Parliament, Innovation Forums, and student outreach programs if available.

Submitting an application

To enter the Tasmanian STEM Early Career Researcher of the Year Award 2026, complete this application form and submit it to Inspiring.Tasmania@utas.edu.au by:

6:00 pm Sunday, 27 September 2026.

Please note attachments are limited at two files (two pages only per attachment). For larger files please provide a link accessible via a website or contact the Inspiring Australia Tasmania team via details below to discuss.

Enquiries:

Manager, Inspiring Australia Tasmania

Phone: 0456 826 322

Email: Inspiring.Tasmania@utas.edu.au

Declaration

In submitting the enclosed application for entry into the Premier's Tasmanian STEM Early Career Researcher of the Year Award 2026, you warrant that,

1. You have the full power and lawful authority to submit an application form on behalf of the applicant.
2. The information contained in this application is accurate and factual.
3. You agree to abide by the Tasmanian STEM Early Career Researcher of the Year Award 2026 guidelines and terms and conditions of entry.

Application form

All applicants are directed to read the accompanying guidelines and terms and conditions before completing this application.

Applications close 6:00 pm Sunday, 27 September 2026.

Section A – Applicant details

1. Applicant name and address

Please complete those fields that are applicable to you or your organisation

Applicant name (incl. Title)			
Position			
Institution/organisation			
School/division (if applicable)			
Postal address			
Suburb		Postcode	
Mobile Phone		Email	

2. Photo

Please attach a photo of yourself - for use at the presentation ceremony if you are a finalist for the award.

3. Curriculum Vitae

Please attach a brief Curriculum Vitae (maximum four pages) including two professional referees.

4. Referral source

Where did you hear about the STEM Excellence Awards?

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5. Short Bio

Please write a short professional biography for yourself - for use at the presentation ceremony if you are a finalist for the award.

Maximum 150 words.

Section B – Science research achievements

6. Briefly outline your research/academic achievements over the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years. This could include information on the following:

- research application
- research impact
- collaboration achievements
- publications record listing headline papers and a web link to a full listing (ie. WARP page)
- major grants obtained
- patents held/ obtained
- awards or prizes received
- invited conference presentations
- invited public/ media presentations

Maximum 300 words. Additional content will not be considered.

7. How do your achievements reflect and impact on your standing in your STEM research field(s) of expertise?

Maximum 150 words. Additional content will not be considered.

8. How do your achievements reflect and impact upon your contribution to the Tasmanian community?

Maximum 150 words. Additional content will not be considered.

9. Will your achievement have any wider implications nationally and/or internationally?

Maximum 150 words. Additional content will not be considered.

Note: Save the completed PDF and email it, along with your Photo and Curriculum Vitae (maximum four pages) to Inspiring.Tasmania@utas.edu.au

If you wish to include some extra supporting material (such as pamphlets or advertising material) please limit it to two appendices (two pages only per attachment).

10. Optional weblink for video files:

Terms and conditions of entry

1. All applications must be received in full by the Manager of Inspiring Australia by the closing date in these guidelines. Late applications will not be accepted.
2. Applicants will be competitively assessed on the basis of their application. The coordinators of the Awards or members of the judging panel may contact the applicants to seek further information and/or clarification.
3. Applicants must agree to abide by the decision of the judging panel.
4. All material submitted will be used solely for the purpose of applying for this Award and will not be circulated. No material relating to an Applicant's entry will be publicised without their prior approval.
5. Photographs and the Short Bio submitted in Section A of this application will be used solely for purposes related to the Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards presentation ceremony.
6. The coordinating committee reserves the right to revoke an Award, re-award an Award or withdraw any application from consideration for the Award if the applicant is in breach of any of these terms and conditions.
7. Finalists should use their best endeavours to attend or be represented at the Award ceremony. Attendance by applicants at the presentation ceremony is encouraged.
8. Applicants enter the Awards at their own risk and the organiser will not be liable for any loss, damage or expense incurred by the applicant as a result of entering an application in the Awards.
9. Applicants agree to do all things reasonable to participate and/or cooperate with any promotional or media activities conducted by the organisers and sponsors in relation to the Tasmanian STEM Early Career Researcher of the Year Award 2026.
10. No contractual or other legal relationship shall arise between the members of the judging panels, the organisers, sponsors and any organisation applying for the Awards.



2026 Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards

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