

The Tasmanian STEM Secondary Teacher of the Year Award 2026

Guidelines and application form



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The awards

The Tasmanian STEM Secondary Teacher of the Year Award 2026 (the Award) recognises the achievements of the state's leading science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teachers for secondary years.

Supported by the Tasmanian Government, Inspiring Australia, and the University of Tasmania, the Award provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of exemplary STEM education for the growth of Tasmania's community and economy.

The Award consists of a \$5,000 cheque and trophy which will be presented at the Tasmanian STEM Excellence Awards reception on 10 November 2026. This event will showcase the winners' success to other educators, scientists, government, interested industry representatives, and the media.

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 teachers and schools
- opportunities for networking and forming education and research alliances amongst participants, including other industry representatives, academics and teachers
- a 'showcase of success stories' for Tasmanian teachers and learners
- media exposure for exemplary Tasmanian STEM learning programs.

How to apply

To enter the Tasmanian STEM Secondary Teacher 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 undertaking secondary (Years 7-12) teaching activities who are currently employed in Tasmanian Government and non-government schools and colleges. Teaching must be in the areas of science, technology, engineering or mathematics. Applicants must be registered with the Teachers Registration Board Tasmania. 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 STEM secondary education.

Selection criteria

The Awards will be presented to a STEM secondary teacher who has shown innovation and consistency of best practice in STEM education in the classroom over the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years.

Achievements outside this timeframe will not be considered during assessment. In making their selection, the judging panel will consider the merit of innovation as well as achievements in engaging students in STEM, as highlighted in the questions asked in the application form below.

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 Secondary Teacher 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 to 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 Tasmanian STEM Secondary Teacher 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 Secondary Teacher 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			
Postal address			
Suburb		Postcode	
Mobile Phone		Email	

2. Teachers Registration Board Tasmania number

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3. Photo

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

4. Curriculum Vitae

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

5. Referral source

Where did you hear about the STEM Excellence Awards?

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6. 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 – Assessment criteria

The judging panel will consider innovation and consistency of best practice in STEM education in the classroom over the 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years.

7. Provide concise examples of two innovative and creative approaches you have used to inspire students to extend their understanding of STEM. Include details of the number of students/classes involved, and learning outcomes that relate to the Australian curriculum.

Maximum 250 words. Additional content will not be considered.

8. Briefly outline how you develop student interest in STEM beyond the scheduled teaching program outlined in the curriculum.

Maximum 250 words. Additional content will not be considered.

9. Briefly outline how you demonstrate consistency of best practice in STEM education. For example, ongoing curriculum delivery, subject area leadership roles, professional learning and awards received.

Maximum 200 words. Additional content will not be considered.

10. How do you inspire students to further their STEM education?

Maximum 100 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 student work samples or curriculum planning) please limit it to two appendices (two pages only per attachment).

11. 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 Secondary Teacher 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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