Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation**

2022 Applicant Information Pack

PREMIER'S
SCIENCE
AWARDS 2022

Shell Aboriginal STEM Student of the Year

Applications close at 10:00AM (AWST) on Tuesday 26 April 2022.

Applications must be submitted online at **https://psa.grantplatform.com** by 10:00AM (AWST) on Tuesday 26 April 2022.

Late applications, or changes to applications will not be accepted after the advertised closing date and time.

Introduction

The Premier's Science Awards (Science Awards) recognise and celebrate the achievements of the Western Australian science community. Award recipients exemplify the outstanding scientific research, science engagement and study efforts taking place in the state.

For the purposes of the Premier's Science Awards, the term 'science' encompasses all fields of science, including natural, medical, applied and technological science, engineering and mathematics. Applications for any category can include achievement in any of these disciplines.

The 2022 Premier's Science Awards program is a proud initiative of the Western Australian government. It is sponsored by Chevron, ExxonMobil, HBF, Shell and Woodside, and supported by Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, The University of Notre Dame Australia, The University of Western Australia, CSIRO, Pawsey Supercomputing Centre, Telethon Kids Institute and the Western Australian Museum.

In 2022, there are six competitively-assessed categories across scientific research, engagement and study. This document outlines the requirements for applicants in the **Shell Aboriginal STEM Student of the Year** category.

A STEM course, for the purposes of this award, may be focused on one or more of the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, health and medicine. Applicants may be studying towards a Bachelor Degree, Honours, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Masters or PhD.

Aboriginal STEM Student of the Year: $10,000	Awarded to an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander undergraduate or postgraduate student who demonstrates excellence in STEM studies.

Application Process

The selection of the award recipients is a very competitive process given the high calibre of all candidates. The comparability of the applications is therefore critical to the selection of winners.

Applications must be submitted online by visiting the link **https://psa.grantplatform.com**. **The applicant must ensure that the: online application is submitted; correct forms are completed (see below); required format is followed; and word limits are observed**.

An application not complying with any of the requirements established below will be considered ineligible.

The documentation required is:

1. *Completed Online Application– Aboriginal STEM Student*
2. *Endorsement Form – Aboriginal STEM Student*
3. Curriculum Vitae – maximum of 4 pages
4. Academic Transcript/s.

> For further information contact the Project Officer, STEM Strategy and Coordination, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation by email at science@jtsi.wa.gov.au or by phone on 08 6277 2844.

Step 1: Eligibility

The applicant must complete the online *application process for the Aboriginal STEM Student category* and complete the applicant declaration confirming their eligibility to apply.

Eligibility to apply for a Science Award is limited to Australian citizens or those who hold permanent residency in Australia. If an applicant is chosen as a finalist they will be required to provide evidence of citizenship or permanent residency.

Finalists in the Shell Aboriginal STEM Student of the Year category will also be asked to provide a signed endorsement letter from an Aboriginal Centre at their university (or from an Aboriginal Land Council or similar organisation) confirming Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Previous applicants are eligible to apply, however applications should not be a resubmission from a previous year. Applicants can only apply for the same category for up to two consecutive years. Applicants are required to take a one year gap before re-applying thereafter. Please ensure your application is current and reflects any changes to the guidelines or evaluation criteria.

Past winners in any Science Awards category are automatically ineligible for that category or its 2022 equivalent, but may apply for other categories if eligible.

Specific Eligibility Criteria

The applicant must also meet the specific eligibility criteria for the category to which an application is submitted.

Shell Aboriginal STEM Student of the Year	Applicants for this award must be: • recognised as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander • enrolled as a current student* in their second year or later at a Western Australian university in a tertiary undergraduate or postgraduate STEM** course. *To be regarded as a current postgraduate student, an applicant must not have submitted their thesis for examination before the application closing date (26 April 2022). **For this award category, a STEM course includes a Bachelor Degree, Honours, Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Masters or PhD focusing on one or more of the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, health and medicine.

All eligibility time periods are as at the application closing date 26 April 2022.

Step 2: Application Endorsement

The applicant should obtain endorsement for their application through the *Endorsement Form – Aboriginal STEM Student.*

The endorser confirms that the application is true and correct and that it is supported by the applicant's management. The endorser should have knowledge of the applicant's achievements and be able to provide expert opinions regarding the applicant's work in STEM research (if applicable). An individual can endorse multiple applicants for the same category.

For the Shell Aboriginal STEM Student of the Year award, the endorsement should be signed by a mentor; lecturer; tutor; academic supervisor employed by the applicant's university; or the applicant's university research office.

We encourage applicants to inform their research office prior to submitting an application.

Step 3: Evaluation Criteria

The applicant is required to address the Evaluation Criteria within the *online form* by providing a maximum 400 word response for each of the two evaluation criteria. Claims and impact should be justified and supported by clearly verifiable quantitative and qualitative evidence. Unsubstantiated or unverifiable statements will not be considered during the selection process. All sections of the form should be completed in detail.

Eligible applications will be evaluated and ranked against the **equally-weighted criteria** of:

1. *excellence*
2. *leadership, ambassadorship, impact and community*.

The applicant should ensure that they:

- provide responses to the criteria that are coherent, well-structured and written in plain English
- avoid repetition and ask someone to proof the application before submitting
- avoid jargon and define necessary technical language and abbreviations
- support claims with quantitative and qualitative evidence/data
- make it clear what is attributable to their effort versus what is attributable to their team or colleagues
- avoid including webpages and links to audio files as judges may choose to only review hard copies of application documents.

Step 4: Submission Documentation

The applicant should collate the relevant required documentation and submit their application by 10:00AM (AWST) on Tuesday 26 April 2022. Late submissions, or changes requested past this time, will not be accepted.

Any materials other than those requested will not be provided to the judging panel and will therefore not be considered in the evaluation process.

The format for the required documentation is:

1. completed, and electronically submitted, online application – *Aboriginal STEM Student*
2. completed and signed *Endorsement Form – Aboriginal STEM Student*
3. a Curriculum Vitae (CV) of a **maximum of 4 pages** (in single spaced Arial 11pt font)
4. a copy of the applicant's transcript from their current enrolled course, and previous tertiary courses where relevant.

All documents must be clearly titled using the following **Naming Conventions** with the applicant's name, followed by the document type and format, e.g.:

- JaneSmithApplication.doc
- JaneSmithEndorsement.pdf
- JaneSmithCV.doc

Different forms apply for applicants in the *Research* and *Engagement Initiative* award categories. Please ensure you use the correct forms for your chosen award category when applying.

General Information

The applicant should read the following information before completing their application.

Decision Making Process

Applications will be evaluated by a Premier's Science Awards judging panel. Evaluation of applications will be based on the application's alignment with the evaluation criteria.

The judging panel reserve the right to request additional evidence to support claims against the evaluation criteria, and to seek advice from individuals with expertise in the area under consideration, to assist with evaluation.

The judges' recommendations are final. The deliberations of the judging panel and all related information and material will be kept strictly confidential, subject to the requirements of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. The judging panel reserves the right not to recommend a winner or finalist for a particular category.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email.

Freedom of Information

Applicants are informed that the department is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992,* which provides a general right of access to records held by Western Australian State and Local Government agencies.

Further information on the operation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act can be obtained from the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation or by contacting the department's FOI Coordinator at foi@jtsi.wa.gov.au.

Use of Application Materials

All materials provided are accepted on the understanding that the department will only use or disclose such material:

- in the process of determining the recommended winner and finalists for a category
- for the purposes of informing the public about the award outcomes
- in any publicity concerning the Science Awards
- in any publicity concerning the promotion of STEM
- in other instances where information collected may be disclosed without consent, where authorised or required by law.

All award-related information, material provided, and material created by the department through the Science Awards program, such as media statements, interviews, videos and photographs, remain the property of the department.

Tax Information

In some instances, the Australian Taxation Office views prize money as assessable income. An award recipient is advised to discuss any potential taxation implications with their financial advisor, or the Australian Taxation Office (13 28 61).

Obligations of Award Recipients

Award recipients are invited to participate in public engagements promoting STEM to the wider community. The department will actively coordinate the participation of the 2022 award recipients by facilitating links with science engagement opportunities. We may also invite finalists to participate in STEM engagement opportunities.

The Department encourages award recipients to promote their success through newsletters, websites, social media and by other means. Recipients are required to acknowledge sponsors when mentioning the award. Please contact us to discuss the use of logos and other materials.

In the event award recipients are contacted by the media, advice should be sought from the department prior to participating in media interviews. Information provided to the media must appropriately acknowledge your category sponsors and the date the award was granted.

END OF INFORMATION PACK