



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



2023 Applicant Information Pack

Aboriginal STEM Student of the Year

Applications close at 10:00AM (AWST) on Thursday 27 April 2023.

Applications must be submitted and endorsed online at <https://psa.grantplatform.com> by 10:00AM (AWST) on Thursday 27 April 2023.

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

Introduction

The Premier's Science Awards (the 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 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 Awards are a proud initiative of the Western Australian government. The 2023 Premier's Science Awards program is sponsored by:

- Gold Sponsors: Shell and Woodside
- Silver Sponsor: DUG
- Bronze Sponsors: CSIRO and Pawsey Supercomputing Centre
- University Sponsors: Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, The University of Notre Dame Australia, The University of Western Australia
- Sector Sponsor: Telethon Kids Institute
- Community Partners: Scitech, The Western Australian Museum
- Media Partner: The West Australian

In 2023, there are six competitively-assessed categories across scientific research, engagement and study. This document outlines the requirements for applicants in the **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 and endorsed online by visiting the link <https://psa.grantplatform.com>. **The applicant must ensure that the: online application and endorsement is submitted before the closing date and time, appropriate documentation is included (see below), the 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. Completed Online Endorsement – Aboriginal STEM Student
3. Curriculum Vitae – maximum of 4 pages
4. Academic Transcript/s.

For further information contact Tessa Finlen, Project Officer, STEM Strategy and Coordination, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation by email at science@itsi.wa.gov.au or by phone on 08 6277 2870.

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 the Aboriginal STEM Student of the Year 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 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. Please ensure your application is current and reflects any changes to the guidelines or evaluation criteria.

Past winners in any Awards categories are automatically ineligible for that category or its 2023 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.

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 (20 April 2023).

**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 of 27 April 2023.

Step 2: 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 3: Submission Documentation and Declaration

The applicant should collate the relevant required documentation and submit their application by 10:00AM (AWST) on Thursday 27 April 2023. 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 electronically submitted Endorsement - 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
- JaneSmithCV.doc

Prior to the submission of the application, the applicant must complete a Declaration stating that they; are a current undergraduate or postgraduate student in their second year or later undertaking studies in STEM, health or medicine at a Western Australian university; identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and are an Australian citizen or have permanent residency; declare that the information supplied in the application is true, accurate and not misleading to the best of their knowledge; permit the use of any materials submitted for the purposes of the selection process and acknowledge that it may be used for publicity purposes; and that appropriate endorsement will be obtained.

Step 4: Application Endorsement

The applicant should obtain endorsement for their application within the online form.

Prior to the submission of the application, the applicant will be asked to provide the name and email address of a suitable endorser.

Once the application has been submitted, the endorser will receive an automated email asking them to log in to the online form and complete the endorsement of the application before the closing date and time, confirming that the application is true and correct, and 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 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.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they allow sufficient time for the endorser to complete the online endorsement before the closing date and time.

The applicant will receive an email notification advising them once the application has been endorsed. If a notification hasn't been received, it is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with the endorser to ensure the endorsement has been completed before the closing date and time.

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

Different forms apply for applicants in the *Research and Science 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 of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (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](http://www.djtsi.wa.gov.au) 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 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 Awards program, such as media statements, interviews, videos and photographs, remain the property of the Department.

Please note that upon submission of your application through the online platform, your institution's research office will automatically receive an email informing them of your name and the award category that you have applied for. No further information will be provided to them by the Department. This is separate to the endorsement process.

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 expected to participate in public engagements promoting STEM to the wider community, such as National Science Week activities. The Department may facilitate links between 2023 award recipients and existing science engagement opportunities. The Department 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 tweets and by other means. The Department will provide information to support award winners in these promotions. 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 the Premier's Science Awards and the date the award was granted.

The Department will contact the 2023 award recipients to discuss any proposed activities following the Awards Ceremony.

END OF INFORMATION PACK