



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



## **2025 Applicant Information Pack**

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STEM Student of the Year**

**Applications close at 10:00AM (AWST) on Monday 28 July 2025.**

Applications must be submitted and endorsed online at <https://psa.grantplatform.com> by 10:00AM (AWST) on Monday 28 July 2025.

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, STEM education and study efforts taking place in the State.

For the purposes of the Awards, the term 'science' encompasses applied and discovery science and includes engineering, new technologies 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 2025 Premier's Science Awards program is sponsored by:

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

In 2025, there are ten competitively assessed categories across scientific research, engagement, STEM education and study. There will also be a People's Choice Award. This document outlines the requirements for applicants in the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STEM Student of the Year** category.

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<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STEM Student of the Year:</b> <b>\$10,000</b>	<p>Awarded to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander undergraduate or postgraduate student who demonstrates excellence in STEM studies.</p> <p>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.</p>
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## Application Process

The selection of the award recipients is a competitive process and comparability of the applications is critical to the selection of winners. The applicant must meet the required format and the information requirements that have been established for their application, to be considered by the judging panel.

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 and electronically submitted Application
2. Completed and electronically submitted Endorsement
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](mailto: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 and Torres Strait Islander STEM Student of the Year* category and complete the applicant declaration confirming their eligibility to apply.**

Eligibility to apply for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STEM Student of the Year award is limited to Australian citizens residing in Western Australia, or those who hold permanent resident status in Australia and are residing in Western Australia. If an applicant is chosen as a finalist, they will be required to provide evidence of Australian citizenship or permanent residency.

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 2025 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.

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Applicants for this award must be:

- recognised as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.
- 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 student, an applicant must not have had their PhD or degree conferred prior to the application closing date, available on the cover page of these guidelines.

\*\* 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.

Finalists in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STEM Student of the Year category will be asked to provide evidence of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent, such as a signed endorsement letter from an Aboriginal Centre at their university.

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## Step 2: Evaluation Criteria

**The applicant is required to address the Evaluation Criteria within the *online form* by providing a maximum 400 written 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*, which refers to your academic performance and achievements. Your response should provide evidence to support your claims. Please describe your academic achievements.

These may be demonstrated, for example, through:

- academic results and achievements;
- elaborating on an academic transcript;
- awards or scholarships received; and/or
- achievements during any course-related projects or practical work undertaken.

2. *Leadership, ambassadorship, impact and community*, which refers to your aspirations in STEM and potential to be a role model to others.

Your response should provide evidence to support your claims. Please describe your future aspirations in STEM and provide evidence of your ability to be a role model to others.

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; and
- avoid including webpages and links to audio files as judges may choose to only review hard copies of application documents; and
- allow adequate time to prepare the application and obtain endorsement, as late or unendorsed applications will be deemed ineligible.

### Step 3: Submission Documentation and Declaration

**The applicant should collate the relevant required documentation and submit their application by the application closing date and time, available on the cover page of these guidelines. 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 for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander STEM Student of the Year category;
2. completed and electronically submitted Endorsement;
3. a Curriculum Vitae of a maximum of 4 pages (in single spaced Arial 11pt font). CVs that do not comply with these parameters will be reformatted, if needed, and cut to four (4) pages; and
4. a copy of the applicant's transcript from their current enrolled course, and previous tertiary courses where relevant.

You are permitted to attach up to **two pages of images, figures or tables** to support your application. Please make sure these are clearly referenced in each criteria section. If these additional two pages comprise of a CV extension, the above clause 2. will apply and these CV pages may not be considered in your application.

All documents must be clearly titled using the following **Naming Conventions** with the applicant's name, followed by the document type and format. For example, "JaneSmithCV.doc".

**There are different online forms for applicants in the *Research, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scientist, STEM Educator, Science Engagement Initiative* and *Government Science Project* award categories. Please ensure you use the correct form for your chosen award category when applying.**

In the online submission of the application, the applicant must complete a Declaration stating:

- 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;
- they identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and are an Australian citizen or have permanent residency;
- they declare that the information supplied in the application is true, accurate and not misleading to the best of their knowledge;
- they are not a past winner of the category for which they are applying;
- appropriate endorsement will be obtained;
- they permit the use of any materials submitted for the purposes of the selection process and that it may be used for promotional purposes; and
- in the event they are chosen as a finalist, the Department may use applicant information, photos and/or videos to promote the Premier's Science Awards program to the Western Australian community including, for example, social media promotion, public displays and public voting.

In the online submission of the application, the applicant should also declare any perceived, potential or actual conflicts of interest they or their partners may have in relation to any aspect of the Premier's Science Awards program. This will not affect the applicant's eligibility, but is necessary for Departmental consideration when managing conflicts of interest. If the applicant later identifies an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, they must inform the Department in writing immediately.

These conflicts of interest may include, but are not limited to a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party that could be reasonably construed as having or seen to have influence on the proper and objective judging process of the Awards, such as an officer of the Western Australian Government Department, an employee of one of the Awards sponsors or partners, a member of a judging panel or a Western Australian Member of Parliament.

#### Step 4: Application Endorsement

**The applicant should obtain endorsement for their application within the online form at <https://psa.grantplatform.com> by the application closing date and time, available on the cover page of these guidelines.**

In the online 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 and Torres Strait Islander 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.

## 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.

The winners of the 2025 Premier's Science Awards will be announced at the Premier's Science Awards ceremony, scheduled for October 2025.

### 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](#) or by contacting the Department's FOI Coordinator at [foi@jtsi.wa.gov.au](mailto: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 promotion of the Awards;
- in any publicity concerning the promotion of STEM; or
- 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 photos, 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 of the Premier's Science Awards 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 2025 award recipients and existing science engagement opportunities. The Department may also invite 2025 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. 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, your category and the date the award was granted. The Department strongly encourages all award recipients to seek advice prior to speaking to members of the media.

The Department may use finalist information, photos and/or videos to promote the Premier's Science Awards program to the Western Australian community including, for example, social media promotion, public displays and public voting.

The Department will contact the 2025 award recipients to discuss any proposed activities following the Awards Ceremony.

**END OF INFORMATION PACK**