



Government of South Australia

Department for Industry,
Innovation and Science

20 24 | SA Science Excellence + Innovation Awards

Application Guidelines

Enquiries

Department for Industry, Innovation and Science
Email: DIISCommunications@sa.gov.au

www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au

The South Australian Government invites applications for the 2024 South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards.

These annual awards recognise South Australian individuals and teams that have demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation and scientific contributions to the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM).

Applications from individuals and teams with diverse backgrounds across South Australia are welcomed.

The objectives of the South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards are to:

- celebrate the importance of excellence, collaboration, innovation and translation of work across STEMM fields for a healthy economy, environment and community
- recognise outstanding achievements by individuals and teams in STEMM research, innovation and education
- highlight the critical role that South Australia's STEMM leaders across research, industry, and education are playing in a changing world to deliver solutions for health, environmental, and economic challenges of the future
- showcase the importance and diversity of STEMM professionals and careers for the current and future workforce.

Stay connected on all things science

 Twitter: [@sachiefsci](https://twitter.com/sachiefsci) #SAScienceAwards

 LinkedIn: [Chief Scientist for South Australia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/chief-scientist-for-south-australia)



Professor
Helen Marshall

2023 South Australian Scientist of the Year

WINNER

I'm truly honoured to be awarded the 2023 South Australian Scientist of the Year.

Awards like this are very special. I love my job, I feel so privileged to work in such an exciting and important area. But as scientists I believe we have the responsibility to ensure the evidence we generate is visible to policy makers and the community. It's much harder for someone to say no if you've presented clear evidence for change. Evidence is extremely powerful.

As scientists we must continue to build the evidence and advocate at the highest level for a better world.



2023 winners at the awards celebration with Deputy Premier the Hon Dr Susan Close MP, Professor Caroline McMillen AO FAHMS, Andrew Nunn and sponsor representatives from Commonwealth Bank Australia, Telstra and Novatech.

These awards shine a bright light on our strong community of scientists, innovators and STEMM educators whose achievements and leadership support the delivery of better economic and social outcomes for our state and the world.



2024 Award Categories

There are six award categories:

South Australian Scientist of the Year *(open to individuals)*

South Australian Innovator of the Year *(open to individuals and teams)*

STEMM Educator of the Year *(open to individuals and teams)*

- Primary or Secondary School
- University or Registered Training Organisation

Excellence in Science and Industry Collaboration *(open to teams)*

PhD Research Excellence *(open to individuals)*

Awards

Award recipients are publicly recognised and celebrated for their achievements. Each recipient or team receives a trophy designed by a local artist and a monetary award with a total value of:

- **\$25,000** each for the Scientist of the Year and for the Innovator or Innovation Team of the Year
- **\$10,000** each for the STEMM Educator of the Year (two prizes), Excellence in Science and Industry Collaboration Award and PhD Research Excellence Award.

The monetary award for a team will usually be shared equally by all team members.

Recipients are expected to use award money for their work-related activities. This may include support for professional development activities related to growing leadership, management, or business skills, conference support including travel, support for publication outputs, and work-related expenses e.g. childcare, collaboration or innovation related expenses.

A maximum of five members may be included for a team award, regardless of the actual size of the team.



Jill Bauer

2023 STEMM Educator of the Year

University or Registered Training Organisation

WINNER

How to Apply

- Review the eligibility criteria.
 - Ensure you are applying in the correct category.
 - Read and agree to the conditions of entry.
 - Complete the online form addressing each selection criterion.
 - Provide a copy of your curriculum vitae (CV) (where the application is for a team award, CVs for each member of the team are required) – each CV should be abbreviated to no more than four pages. Applicants providing CVs longer than 4 pages will not be considered for selection.
 - Provide a written endorsement for your individual application or in the case of a team application, a written endorsement for each member of the team. Without the appropriate written endorsements, the application will not be considered for selection.
- **Applications from staff or students from:**
 - **universities** must be endorsed by their Deputy Vice Chancellor Research (DVCR) or Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic (DVCA)
 - **registered training organisation** must be endorsed by their Education Manager
 - **schools** must be endorsed by their school Principal.
 - **Applications from industry** must be endorsed by their employer or company chairperson. In the case of a CEO or company chairperson applying, they may endorse their own application.
 - **Applications from government** must be endorsed by the individual's Chief Executive
 - Any application that does not include all of the information as outlined above will not be considered for selection.

All applications must be submitted online via the 'How to apply' link on the website at www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au

Recommendation of others

- Provide a short reason which explains why you are recommending the person or team and what your relation is to them.
- Complete the online form 'Recommend someone to apply', including contact details for the person or team you wish to nominate.
- Note: recommending a person or team does not automatically enter them for consideration into the Awards. The person or team will be invited to submit a full application as per the previous instructions.

All applications must be submitted online via the 'How to apply' link on the website at www.scienceawards.sa.gov.au



Selection process

- The Department for Industry, Innovation and Science will manage the selection process for the 2024 South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards.
- Applications will be reviewed by independent selection panels (panel). Assessment will be based solely on the written information provided in the application form.
- Each applicant will be assessed by the panel against the selection criteria to determine the award recipient (winner) and short-listed finalists (finalists) for each award category.
- During the selection process, the employer, colleagues, endorsers or associates of finalists may be contacted to confirm relevant details within an application where appropriate.
- Finalists may also be required to participate in an interview, which will be at the discretion of the panel. The decision of the panel is final.

Endorsing an application

If you are endorsing an application for the 2024 SA Science Excellence and Innovation Awards, you must endorse that:

- The applicant is an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- To your knowledge, the applicant has not been formally convicted of, or is currently under a formal investigation for, any misconduct, academic misconduct or criminal behaviour
- The application is based on the individual's achievements to date
- The majority of the applicant's work was undertaken in South Australia
- For PhD Students, that the student has received conferral of their PhD degree and that this occurred no more than 24 months prior to the closure of the Awards application period.

Award presentation

- The 2024 South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards presentation will be held in November 2024.
- Individual finalists will receive a maximum of two complimentary tickets to the presentation; team finalists will receive a maximum of five (5) complimentary tickets, at the discretion of the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science.
- It is a requirement that all finalists or their representatives attend the presentation event and be available for promotional opportunities leading up to and following the award presentation.



Conditions of entry

By entering the 2024 SA Science Excellence and Innovation Awards, you agree to abide by the following conditions of entry:

- **Closing date for entries is 5pm ACST Friday, 26 April 2024. No extensions will be provided.**
- Applicants must be Australian citizens or hold permanent resident status.
- Applicants must be eligible for entry according to specific award category criteria. Non-compliance with entry criteria will be sufficient grounds for rejection of the application.
- Applications must include all of the information listed under the Apply section above. Any application not in compliance with these conditions of entry or the above information will not be considered for selection.
- Applicants enter on the understanding that the Department for Industry, Innovation and Science (Department) or its nominee reserves the right to alter, vary and/or modify any prize or condition of entry and reserves the right to make new conditions at any time.
- The Department reserves the right to revoke an award in particular circumstances as outlined in the award revocation policy.
- The Department reserves the right to use nonconfidential details, photographs and/or film footage for any publicity purpose pertaining to promoting the South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards as important contributors to South Australia's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.
- Material submitted as part of the application process may be used by the Department for media releases or case studies.
- Award recipients and finalists may be asked to undertake a number of local public events and engagements in the year following their award, such as National Science Week, or to present addresses at official events.
- Applicants must abide by the decisions of the Department or its nominee, whose decision shall be final on all matters pertaining to the awards. No correspondence or justification for any decision shall be required of the Department.
- Past award recipients (winners) cannot apply in the same category in subsequent years, but may apply for other categories if they are eligible.
- Previous applicants and finalists are eligible to reapply for the 2024 South Australian Science Excellence and Innovation Awards in any award category for which they are eligible.



The Chrysos PhotonAssay Team

2023 South Australian Innovator of the Year

WINNER

Thank you to all the labs and mines that have adopted and endorsed this technology. It's not easy to displace the four thousand years of technique such as fire assay but I think we've started to make our mark.

We often like to joke about global domination, just in the mineral analysis field.

I'm extremely proud this South Australian invention is making its impact across the world.

South Australian Scientist of the Year

Awarded to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in any STEMM field. The Scientist of the Year will also have made an outstanding contribution in providing leadership that has inspired others.

Eligibility

- Individuals from across academia, industry and government sectors are eligible to apply.
- Applications must be based on achievement to date.
- The majority of the applicant's work or research in the last five (5) years should have been undertaken in South Australia.

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

Significant international contributions made in their field, providing evidence of the recognition of the global impact of their research by peers and stakeholders.

Criteria 2

Demonstrated track record of excellence as a leader within or beyond their field of research.

This may include examples of:

- building, leading and mentoring successful teams
- leading successful collaborations either across disciplinary fields, engagement with industry, other public organisations or end users of research
- contributions to activities which shape the future of individuals or communities, or the future directions of their field.

Criteria 3

In addition to the above, any other evidence of the benefits (e.g. environmental, social, health and economic) of the translation of research to South Australia from their activities.

South Australian Innovator of the Year

This award recognises individuals or teams presently working in South Australia, either in the private or public sector, who have harnessed work in any STEM field to develop new-to-world or new-to-industry products, processes or services, or delivered innovation that has changed practice and resulted in significant outcomes in other fields.

Eligibility

- Individuals across academia, industry, and government are eligible to apply.
- Where a team has applied, all individuals must meet the eligibility criteria, and a high level of collaboration must be demonstrated for the team application to be eligible. An outline of who was involved in the team and their role(s) must also be provided.
- The majority of the applicant's (individual or team) work or research in the last five years should have been undertaken in South Australia.

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

Demonstrate innovation and translation, outlining:

- a summary of the problem being addressed
- a description of the endpoint of the work, including any novel elements that were required to address the key problem.

Criteria 2

Demonstrate a relentless entrepreneurial spirit and drive to impact economic, social, and/or environmental change in South Australia, nationally or globally, including how the next generation is inspired or encouraged to start a business.

Criteria 3

Describe how this innovation delivered a positive impact in South Australia, nationally or globally, and provide evidence.





Christie Evans

2023 STEMM Educator of the Year

Primary or Secondary School

WINNER



STEMM Educator of the Year

The STEMM Educator of the Year Award recognises educators who have made an outstanding contribution to STEMM education. Part time educators are eligible.

The STEMM Educator of the Year is awarded in the following sub-categories:

- Primary or Secondary School
- University or Registered Training Organisation

STEMM Educator of the Year – Primary or Secondary School

The STEMM Educator of the Year – Primary or Secondary School is open to applications from an individual teacher or from a teacher and their team from the education sector (early childhood, primary or secondary, public and private sectors) who have made an outstanding contribution to enhancing student learning and have inspired their students to engage actively in STEMM.

Eligibility

- Individuals or teams of up to five members from either the private or public sectors are eligible to apply.
- Applications are to be endorsed by the school Principal.
- All applicants should be active in teaching STEMM subjects in the classroom in South Australia at the time of their application.

Note: As part of the judging process, the following criteria will be adapted to take into consideration the age of the applicant's students and their learning needs.

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

An innovative and imaginative approach to teaching STEMM that motivates students to learn.

Criteria 2

Active involvement in STEMM education through teaching that reflects a command of the field and is evidenced by high standing in the professional community.

Criteria 3

Demonstrated ability to develop students' confidence in learning, and use and apply STEMM knowledge and processes.

STEMM Educator of the Year cont.

STEMM Educator of the Year – University or Registered Training Organisation

The STEMM Educator of the Year – University or Registered Training Organisation Award is open to individuals and teams who have made an outstanding contribution to enhancing student learning in STEMM areas.

The award winner will have inspired their students to become involved in student-centred investigation in STEMM areas, where students seek answers to scientific questions posed by themselves and set in real-world contexts.

Eligibility

- Individuals or teams of up to five members are eligible to apply.
- Applications are to be endorsed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic (university) or Education Manager (registered training organisation).
- All applicants must be active in teaching STEMM subjects in South Australia at the time of their application.

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

An innovative and imaginative approach to teaching STEMM that motivates students to learn. Contribution to activities that have promoted an understanding of STEMM and influenced and enhanced learning and teaching.

Criteria 2

Active involvement in STEMM education through teaching that reflects a command of the field and is evidenced by high standing in the professional community.

Criteria 3

Demonstrated impact on students. This could be evidenced through:

- increased enrolments in subject areas
- number of graduates proceeding to STEMM related careers
- recognition from a professional body
- other measurable outcomes.

Science to revive lost oyster reefs

2023 Excellence in Science
and Industry Collaboration

WINNER



Excellence in Science and Industry Collaboration

Open to teams that have harnessed innovative and productive models of STEM and industry collaboration which may lead to positive economic, social or environmental impact.

Eligibility

- Teams of up to five members across academia, industry, and government are eligible to apply.
- There is no limit on the length of time that has elapsed before the impact of the collaboration has been realised.
- The partnership should endeavour to include, but is not limited to, academia, industry, government, or other relevant organisations.
- The majority of work, research or collaboration activities for which the application is covering should have been undertaken in South Australia.

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

Outline a summary of the collaborative project that resulted in this effective partnership between industry and research to drive innovation, describing specifically:

- the science excellence involved in the collaboration, and providing evidence
- who was involved in the team and their role
- the partnership model, how it began and why it is novel or innovative
- the benefits and challenges of the industry/research collaboration.

Criteria 2

Outline how the collaboration has generated or has the potential to generate significant economic, social, health or environmental benefit to South Australia, nationally or globally. Examples may include improvements in public health or in key environmental indicators, or acceptance by policy makers of reports and/or recommendations arising from the collaboration.

Criteria 3

Outline any effective strategies used to connect partners from different sectors to engage in the collaboration.



Dr Hayley Leake

2023 PhD Research Excellence

WINNER

PhD Research Excellence Award

This award recognises recent PhD graduates who have demonstrated outstanding research achievement in any STEM field. Applicants are encouraged to discuss the potential longer-term impact of their work within and beyond their field.

Eligibility

- Applicants must have had their PhD conferred by a South Australian higher education provider.
- Applicants must have received their conferral of a PhD degree and in a time period that is no more than 24 months prior to the closure of applications for these awards.
- Applicants must include a statement of support from their primary supervisor or co-supervisor.

Selection criteria

Criteria 1

Evidence of research excellence during the completion of a PhD. This may include, but is not limited to:

- the quality of research publications or conference papers as appropriate
- awards, honours and recognition by peers, external bodies, community, etc.

Criteria 2

Evidence of research engagement and collaboration. This may include an explanation of:

- the approach taken to initiate engagement with potential research partners
- the level of involvement of partners outside research in a collaborative venture.

Criteria 3

In addition to the above, any other evidence of recognition of leadership contributions and potential career success. This may include:

- demonstration and/or recognition of leadership attributes within or outside the field of research during the PhD
- indicators of career progression.

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