

## **UQ Entrepreneurship and Innovation Awards 2025**

The UQ Entrepreneurship and Innovation Awards showcase and celebrate the breadth of UQ entrepreneurship – from student entrepreneurs to research-based Startups that offer solutions to local and global challenges and create positive change. The Awards celebrate the great success stories of entrepreneurship across the university and across Queensland.

### **2025 Entrepreneurship and Innovation Awards Categories:**

- Startup of the Year
- Student Entrepreneur of the Year
- Mentor of the Year
- Social Enterprise of the Year
- Food and Beverage Startup of the Year

### **2025 Entrepreneurship and Innovation Awards Timeline:**

- 7 May 2025: Nominations open
- 15 June 2025: Nominations close (**Closing Date**)
- 20 June 2025: Shortlisting finalised
- 7 July 2025: Judging finalised
- 20 August 2025: Awards ceremony

### **Terms and Conditions**

- 1 By entering this promotion, you accept these Terms and Conditions.
- 2 Instructions and information on how to enter this promotion form part of these Terms and Conditions.
- 3 The promoter is The University of Queensland (ABN 63 942 912 684) of St Lucia, Queensland, 4072 ("**Promoter**" or "**UQ**").

### **General Eligibility Criteria**

- 4 Eligibility criteria across all awards are set out below:
  - (a) Each nominee must be over 18 years of age.
  - (b) All nominations must be received by the Closing Date.
  - (c) A recipient cannot win more than one award category in any calendar year and cannot win the same award category more than once.
  - (d) Awards will not be awarded posthumously.
  - (e) The winner of each award will be announced at the awards ceremony. To be eligible, nominees must be willing and able to attend, and must be present at, the awards ceremony.
  - (f) Current members of University Senior Leadership Group (USLG), UQ Senate or UniQuest executive are not eligible to be nominated in any award category.
  - (g) Additional eligibility criteria specific to each of the five awards appear below.
- 5 The Promoter may decline to accept any nomination which, in its reasonable opinion, does not comply with these Terms and Conditions.

## **Award Specific Eligibility Criteria**

### **6 Startup of the Year**

This award recognises the exceptional startups which have been developed through UQ.

#### **Nomination criteria**

- (a) The nominee must have founded or cofounded a startup business (the **Venture**) and must be part of the management or ownership of the Venture.
- (b) The nominee may be one person or a team, but at least one member of the team must be an Alumni, current student or current staff member of UQ.
- (c) Only one nomination is allowed per Venture.
- (d) The Venture must still be in operation at the time of nomination and must have been founded within the 5 years before the date on which the nominations open.

### **7 Student Entrepreneur of the Year**

This award recognises current UQ students (or most recent graduates) who have developed innovative entrepreneurial ventures while at UQ.

#### **Nomination Criteria**

- (a) Open only to individual undergraduate, post graduate and research students who as at the Closing Date are currently enrolled at UQ.
- (b) The nominee must have founded a business, social enterprise or not-for-profit venture (the **Venture**) while enrolled at UQ.
- (c) Only one nomination is allowed per Venture.
- (d) The Venture must still be in operation at the time of nomination.
- (e) Current and former UQ Chief Student Entrepreneurs are ineligible for this award.

### **8 Mentor of the Year**

This award recognises the exceptional value and support which mentors provide to students and UQ entrepreneurial activities.

#### **Nomination Criteria**

- (a) The nominee must have mentored, judged or supported an entrepreneurial program at UQ within 2023, 2024, or 2025.

### **9 Social Enterprise of the Year**

This award recognises the exceptional impact which social enterprises have made whilst at UQ.

#### **Nomination Criteria**

- (a) The nominee must have founded a business, social enterprise or not-for-profit venture (the **Venture**) while enrolled at UQ.

- (b) The nominee may be one person or a team, but all persons nominated must be undergraduate, post graduate or research students who as at the Closing Date are currently enrolled at UQ.
- (c) Only one nomination is allowed per Venture.
- (d) The Venture must still be in operation at the time of nomination.
- (e) Current and former UQ Chief Student Entrepreneurs are ineligible for this award.

## 10 Food & Beverage Startup of the Year

This award recognises the exceptional Startups within the Food & Beverage Sector within Australia.

### Nomination criteria

- (a) The nominee may be one person or a team, but all persons nominated must be part of the management or ownership of the startup business (the **Venture**).
- (b) Only one nomination is allowed per Venture.
- (c) The Venture must operate in the food and beverage industry in Australia.
- (d) The Venture must be currently trading in Australia at the time of nomination and must have been founded within the 5 years before the date the nominations open.

### How to enter

- 11 Nominations open at midday on 7th May 2025 and will close at midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025 ("**Entry Period**").
- 12 Only nominations made by fully completing the online nomination form through the online platform at <https://ventures.uq.edu.au/entrepreneurship-innovation-awards> will be accepted.
- 13 Each nomination must include:
  - (a) a written statement (maximum 500 words) detailing why the nominee deserves to be recognised and how they meet the criteria for the award; and
  - (b) a minimum of two **written** references in support of this nomination. External referees who are leaders in their profession will be highly regarded.
- 14 Nominations may also include supporting evidence such as awards, media clippings, electronic media, etc (maximum of three attachments). (Optional)
- 15 Incomplete nominations, and those received outside the Entry Period, will not be accepted.
- 16 Nominations can be made on behalf of others, or self-nomination.
- 17 In the case of nominations made on behalf of others, the Promoter will inform the nominee following the Closing Date that they have been nominated.
- 18 Nominators will be responsible for updating additional information.
- 19 The Promoter reserves the right to disclose the identity of the nominator to the nominee. Anyone nominating on behalf of another person warrants that they have the consent of the person they nominate to do so and to disclose any personal information.

- 20 Personal information submitted to The Promoter by the nominator or nominee, in connection with the awards, will be given to the selection panel for the purpose of judging the awards and will be stored in the Promoter's alumni database, Raisers Edge.

### **Judging**

- 21 This promotion is a game of skill. Chance plays no part in determining the winners.
- 22 Judging will take place as follows:
- (a) UQ Ventures senior staff will undertake a shortlisting process of all eligible nominees based on their merits, including using the judging criteria set out below. This shortlisting will select 5 nominees per category for progression to the judging.
  - (b) All shortlisted nominees, and nominees where there are fewer than 5 nominations, for an award will be notified and asked to attend the awards ceremony.
  - (c) Shortlisted nominees, and nominees where there are fewer than 5 nominations, for an award will be judged by a judging panel.
- 23 The judging panel consists of representatives chosen by the Promoter incorporating:
- (a) One (1) representative from UQ Ventures,
  - (b) One (1) representative from UQ Advancement,
  - (c) The Academic in Residence (or any other academic from the UQ Business School)
  - (d) One (1) representative from FaBA, and
  - (e) One (1) representative from UniQuest.
- (“Judging Panel”).
- 24 The Judging Panel will judge all short-listed nominations individually on their merits, including using the Judging Criteria set out below. The Judging Panel will choose winners who best meet the Judging Criteria in their discretion.
- 25 The Promoter and the Judging Panel reserve the right not to allocate an award in one of the categories if, in its opinion, there are no nominations of sufficient merit.
- 26 Any decision of the Promoter and the Judging Panel in relation to any aspect of the promotion is final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the result of the promotion.

### **27 Judging Criteria**

#### **27.1 Startup of the Year**

- (a) Proof of traction – Demonstrated growth through revenue and staff numbers and/or funding attracted.
- (b) Impact on focus area – Demonstrated impact in the Startup's target area or social/environmental impact.
- (c) Innovative offering – unique offering utilising new technology or approaches.
- (d) Engagement with UQ – to what extent the Startup has utilised UQ resources, students, research or other insights or opportunities facilitated at UQ.

## **27.2 Student Entrepreneur of the Year**

- (a) Proof of traction – Demonstrated growth through revenue and staff numbers and/or funding attracted.
- (b) Impact on focus area – Demonstrated impact in the Startup's target area or social/environmental impact.
- (c) Innovative offering – unique offering utilising new technology or approaches.
- (d) Engagement with UQ – to what extent the Startup has utilised UQ resources, students, research or other insights or opportunities facilitated at UQ.

## **27.3 Mentor of the Year**

- (a) Imparted guidance and expertise in encouraging and critiquing student participants.
- (b) Instilled a strong sense of support and solidarity to the student participants.
- (c) Gave considered, professional and effective advice.
- (d) Demonstrated a willingness to exceed the expectations of the student participants.

## **27.4 Social Enterprise of the Year**

- (a) Impact on focus area – Demonstrated social/environmental impact.
- (b) Size and reach of impact.
- (c) Innovative offering – unique offering utilising new technology or approaches.
- (d) Engagement with UQ – to what extent the Startup has utilised UQ resources, students, research or other insights or opportunities facilitated at UQ.

## **27.5 Food and Beverage Startup of the Year**

- (a) Proof of traction – Demonstrated growth through revenue and staff numbers and/or funding attracted.
- (b) Impact on focus area – Demonstrated impact in the Startup's target area of food and beverage.
- (c) Innovative offering – unique offering utilising new technology or approaches.

## **Prize and notification of winners**

- 28 The winning nominee of each of the five award categories will receive 1 x \$1,000 cash prize (a maximum total prize pool of \$5,000).
- 29 The Promoter will announce the winners at the Awards Ceremony. Each winning nominee must be present at the time of the announcement, failing which, that winner will forfeit the prize and the prize may be awarded to the next best nomination (as determined by the judges).
- 30 Recipients of awards will receive recognition of their award, profiling within UQ media channels, and individual profiles on the UQ Ventures website.
- 31 The Promoter accepts no responsibility for any tax implications that may arise for any prize.

## **Intellectual property**

- 32 You warrant that your nomination is original and does not infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party. You agree that the Promoter has a right and licence to use your nomination for the purpose of this promotion and the awards, and for promotional purposes without the payment of any further fee or compensation to you.

### **Withdrawal from promotion**

- 33 You may withdraw from the promotion at any time before notification of the winners by notifying the Promoter via email at [ventures@uq.edu.au](mailto:ventures@uq.edu.au). If you withdraw from the promotion, the Promoter will remove your nomination and will not use your details or entry for media or promotional purposes. If you withdraw from the promotion, you will no longer be eligible to win a prize.

### **Miscellaneous**

- 34 Entries which, in the opinion of the Promoter, are incomplete, incorrect or incomprehensible, contain defamatory or offensive content or infringe intellectual property rights are not eligible to win and may be removed from the promotion and the relevant entrant will be disqualified.
- 35 The Promoter may, in its absolute discretion, disqualify you if, in the opinion of the Promoter, you breach these Terms and Conditions, engage in dishonest or unethical conduct in relation to the promotion, manipulate, tamper or interfere with the conduct of the promotion, do not comply with the entry process, or conspire with others to gain an unfair advantage. The Promoter may audit you if it suspects you of having engaged in such breach or conduct.
- 36 The Promoter may request information from you relevant to entry or participation in the promotion, such as proof of age. The Promoter may, in its absolute discretion, disqualify you if you provide insufficient information, false information or fail to provide information.
- 37 The Promoter is not responsible for any late, lost or misdirected entries.
- 38 The Promoter is not responsible for any delays, problems or technical malfunction of any telephone network or lines, computer systems, computer equipment or software, technical problems or traffic congestion on the Internet or at any website, or any combination thereof, including any injury or damage to your or any other person's computer related to or resulting from entering this promotion. If such problems arise, then the Promoter may modify, cancel, terminate or suspend the promotion.
- 39 To the extent permitted by law, the Promoter is not liable for any loss, damage or injury whatsoever (including, but not limited to, indirect or consequential loss) resulting from this promotion, including the taking of prizes.
- 40 If, for any reason, this promotion is not capable of running as planned, including war, terrorism, state of emergency or disaster, infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorised intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes beyond the control of the Promoter which corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness, integrity, or proper conduct of this promotion, the Promoter reserves the right in its sole discretion to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the promotion.
- 41 All costs associated with nomination are your responsibility.
- 42 You understand and agree that the Promoter may collect personal information from you when you enter the promotion, and use it for the purpose of running the promotion (which may include disclosure to third parties for the purpose of processing and conducting the promotion), for promotional purposes surrounding this promotion, as well as other purposes, as set out in the Promoter's Privacy Policy (located at <https://ppl.app.uq.edu.au/content/1.60.02-privacy-management>). For further information on how the Promoter deals with your personal information, please refer to the Promoter's Privacy Policy.