# UQ Entrepreneurship and Innovation Awards 2026 Terms and Conditions

## About the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Awards

The University of Queensland (UQ) Entrepreneurship and Innovation Awards (E&I 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 Queensland, extending into industry and our communities.

## 2026 Entrepreneurship and Innovation Awards categories

- UQ Student Entrepreneur of the Year
- UQ Entrepreneur of the Year
- UQ Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year

## Key Dates

- 6 August 2026: Nominations open
- 13 September 2026: Nominations close ("closing date")
- 1 October 2026: Shortlisting finalised
- 16 October 2026: Judging finalised
- 10 November 2026: Awards Ceremony

## Awards 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 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 three 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. UQ 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, postgraduate and research students who as at the Closing Date are currently enrolled at UQ.

b) The founder ('the nominee") must have developed or founded a venture (including but not limited to a business, social enterprise or not-for-profit venture) ("the Venture") while enrolled at UQ.

c) Only one nomination is allowed per individual.

d) The Venture must still be active at the time of nomination.

e) Current and former UQ Chief Student Entrepreneurs are ineligible for this award.

### 7. UQ Entrepreneur of the Year

This award recognises exceptional entrepreneurs and founders within the innovation and startup community within Queensland.

Nomination criteria:

a) The nominee must have developed, founded or cofounded a venture (including but not limited to a business, social enterprise or not-for-profit venture) (the Venture) within 5 years before the nomination Closing Date.

b) The nominee must be a current staff or recent alumni of UQ (who have graduated from UQ within the last 5 years and/or who have participated in a Ventures program within 5 years of the nomination closing date).

c) Only one nomination is allowed per individual.

### 8. Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year

This award recognises exceptional entrepreneurs and founders who identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander entrepreneur in the Queensland innovation and startup community.

Nomination criteria:

a) This award is for entrepreneurs who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

b) The nominee must have developed, founded or cofounded a venture (including but not limited to a business, social enterprise or not-for-profit venture) (the Venture) within 5 years before the nomination Closing Date.

c) The nominee should be a current student, researcher, UQ staff member or recent alumni of UQ (who has graduated from UQ within the last 5 years and/or who have participated in a Ventures program within 5 years of the nomination closing date).

    a. If the nominee does not fit the criteria above in 8.c) then they must demonstrate affiliation or collaboration within the last 5 years with UQ to a measurable degree.

d) Only one nomination is allowed per individual.

## How to enter

9. Nominations open at 12noon on Thursday 6 August 2026 and will close at 11:59pm on Monday 14 September 2026 (“Entry Period”).
10. Only nominations made by fully completing the online nomination form found through the online platform at https://ventures.uq.edu.au/entrepreneurship-innovation-awards will be accepted.
11. Each nomination must include:

a written statement (maximum 500 words) detailing why the nominee deserves to be recognised and how they meet the criteria for the award; and

a minimum of two written references in support of this nomination. External referees who are leaders in their profession will be highly regarded.

12. Nominations may also include supporting evidence such as awards, media clippings, electronic media, etc (maximum of three attachments). (optional)
13. Incomplete nominations, and those received outside the Entry Period, will not be accepted.
14. Nominations can be made on behalf of others, or self-nomination.
15. 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.
16. Nominators will be responsible for updating additional information.
17. 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.
18. Personal information submitted to The Promoter by the nominator or nominee, in connection with the Awards, will be provided to the selection panel solely for the purpose of judging the awards and advising of outcomes. This information will not be stored in the Promoter’s database and will be housed securely on the UQ server.

## Judging

19. This promotion is a game of skill. Chance plays no part in determining the winners.
20. Judging will take place as follows:

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.

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.

Shortlisted nominees, and nominees where there are fewer than 5 nominations, for an award will be judged by a judging panel.

21. The judging panel (the “Judging Panel”) consists of representatives chosen by the Promoter incorporating:

One (1) representative from Entrepreneurship (also known as Ventures)

One (1) representative from UQ Advancement

The Ventures Academic-in-Residence (or another academic from the UQ Business School in their place)

One (1) representative from Indigenous Business Hub; and

One (1) representative from UniQuest.

22. The Judging Panel will judge all shortlisted 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.

## Judging Criteria

**25. UQ Student Founder of the Year**

a) Proof of traction: Demonstrated track record of entrepreneurial activity, including (as relevant) ventures developed or founded, growth through revenue and/or funding attracted.

b) Impact on focus area: Demonstrated impact as an entrepreneur through startup impact.

c) Innovative offering: Unique perspective or value evident in how student entrepreneur operates (i.e. offering utilises new technology or approaches).

d) Engagement with UQ: To what extent the nominee has utilised UQ resources, students, research or other insights or opportunities facilitated at UQ.

**26. UQ Entrepreneur of the Year**

a) Entrepreneurial impact and outcomes: Demonstrated track record of entrepreneurial activity, including (as relevant) ventures founded, jobs created, revenue growth, funding attracted, partnerships formed, industry recognition, or other measurable outcomes.

b) Impact on priority areas or communities: Clear positive impact in one or more focus areas such as industry transformation, social inclusion, health, environment, regional development, or other UQ priority areas, including identifiable benefits for specific communities or stakeholder groups.

c) Innovative practice and leadership: Evidence of a unique or pioneering approach to entrepreneurship, for example through new technologies, products or services, business models or markets, ethical or inclusive innovation practices, or leadership in building entrepreneurial culture within their organisation or ecosystem.

d) Engagement with UQ and the entrepreneurial ecosystem: Demonstrated engagement with UQ and/or the broader innovation ecosystem, including activities such as mentoring UQ students or founders, research translation or commercialisation, collaboration with UQ staff or centres, guest speaking or advisory roles, internships or employment for UQ students or graduates, or other contributions that strengthen UQ's innovation community.

**27. UQ Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year**

a) Nominees must self-identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. Ventures founded by nominees are not required to specifically target Indigenous communities or markets.

b) Entrepreneurial impact and outcomes: Demonstrated track record of entrepreneurial activity, including (as relevant) ventures founded, jobs created, revenue growth, funding attracted, partnerships formed, industry recognition, or other measurable outcomes.

c) Impact on priority areas or communities: Clear positive impact in one or more focus areas such as industry transformation, social inclusion, health, environment, regional development, or other UQ priority areas, including identifiable benefits for specific communities or stakeholder groups.

d) Innovative practice and leadership: Evidence of a unique or pioneering approach to entrepreneurship, for example through new technologies, products or services, business models

or markets, ethical or inclusive innovation practices, or leadership in building entrepreneurial culture within their organisation or ecosystem.

e) Engagement with UQ and the entrepreneurial ecosystem: Demonstrated engagement with UQ and/or the broader entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem, including activities such as mentoring UQ students or founders, research translation or commercialisation, collaboration with UQ staff, centres or institutes, guest speaking or advisory roles, internships or employment pathways for UQ students or graduates, engagement with UQ entrepreneurship programs or the UQ Indigenous Business Hub, or other contributions that strengthen UQ's innovation community.

### Prize and notification of winners

28. The winning nominee of each of the three award categories will receive 1 x $5,000 cash prize (a maximum total prize pool of $15,000).
29. The Promoter will announce the winners at the Awards Ceremony. Each winning nominee must be willing and able to be present at the time of the announcement, failing which, the judging panel may deem the nominee as ineligible for the award, 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 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. 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://policies.uq.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=480). For further information on how the Promoter deals with your personal information, please refer to the Promoter's Privacy Policy.