

2026 Alumni Impact Award Rules

The Adelaide University Alumni Impact Awards are an opportunity to honour the highest accomplishments and achievements of Adelaide University alumni.

On an annual basis, alumni, staff, students, and members of the wider community will be invited to nominate candidates who demonstrate outstanding achievements that have earned local, national, or international recognition.

Award categories

Alumni Impact Award

Recognises the outstanding and sustained contributions made by university alumni within their profession and/or community, locally, nationally, and/or internationally.

Tirkangkaku Impact Award

Recognises an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander alum whose significant achievements have positively impacted their profession and/or community.

Rising Star Impact Award

Recognises a young alum (35 years or younger at the nomination deadline) who is making a significant contribution as an emerging leader within their profession and/or community.

Procedure for Nominations

The Alumni Impact Awards will be held annually.

The Division of International and External Engagement will manage the call for nominations process, including receiving all nominations, arranging meetings of the Selection Committee to consider nominations, and providing recommendations from the Selection Committee to the Vice Chancellor.

Nomination conditions

- Nominations for Alumni Impact Awards may be submitted by alumni, former and current staff, as well as the wider community.
- An individual can be nominated in multiple award categories, with a separate nomination form required for each submission.
- An individual cannot win more than one award category in any calendar year and cannot win the same award category more than once.
- The University reserves the right to disclose the identity of the nominator to the nominee.
- Nominations must be kept confidential between the nominator and Adelaide University. No approach should be made to any nominee until the selection process has been completed and only the successful nominees will be contacted.

- The nominator's and/or selected nominee's name, image and statement may be published and/or used in any form of media, in any context pertaining to the awards.
- Nominations must be received within the nominations period: Tuesday 5 May 2026 to Friday 26 June 2026.

Eligibility Requirements

Nominees must comply with the following eligibility criteria:

- Any living person who meets the Adelaide University's definition of alumni (1), at the time of nomination.
- Rising Star Impact Award nominees must be aged 35 years or younger as of the nomination deadline.
- Tirkangkaku Impact Award nominees must be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander alum whose significant achievements have impacted their profession and/or community.
- Staff of Adelaide University and the antecedent institutions, who are alumni, are eligible to be nominated.

Nominations will be deemed ineligible if:

- It is a self-nomination.

Selection process

The Alumni Impact Awards Selection Committee will review all nominations and make recommendations to the Vice Chancellor for approval, and all selections are considered final once endorsed.

The Alumni Impact Awards Selection Committee may recommend that there be no award in one or more of the categories each year.

Selection criteria

The following selection criteria will be applied when considering Award recipients:

- Demonstrates sustained and significant contributions in one or more of the following areas: Humanitarian, Professional Excellence, Sporting Excellence and/or Impact, Innovation Impact, and Outstanding Community Service.
- Professional or volunteer work, demonstrates a significant positive impact that has been recognised by peers –locally, nationally and/or internationally.
- Through prominence in their field/profession, brings great distinction to Adelaide University.
- Demonstrates leadership qualities in a variety of contexts that could include volunteering, or community and professional work.

Notes:

(1) As per the Rules of the University – An individual is considered an Adelaide University alum if they meet one or more of the following criteria (noting The Adelaide University Act 2023 outlines a graduate as a person who has been awarded a degree, diploma, certificate, or other award):

Alumni

- o Graduated from Adelaide University by completing an award-level program.
- o Recognised as an alum by its founding institutions.
- o Been awarded an honorary degree.

*Individuals who have received an Honorary Doctorate from the University or any of its antecedent institutions are not eligible to be nominated for the Alumni Impact Award. An Honorary Doctorate represents the University's highest form of recognition, and recipients have already been acknowledged at a level that exceeds the scope and purpose of the Alumni Impact Awards.

(2) Antecedent Institutions

- (a) The University of Adelaide
- (b) The University of South Australia
- (c) South Australia Institute of Technology
- (d) South Australia College of Advanced Education

Rescinding an Alumni Impact Award including awards from antecedent institutions.

An Alumni Impact Award bestowed on an alum at any time over the life of the Awards (including awards received from antecedent institutions) and in any of the award categories may be rescinded by resolution of the Adelaide University Council.

Outcome

Only the successful nominee will be notified of their selection and invited to accept this award.

Presentation of the Awards

The Awards will be presented by the University at the annual Alumni Impact Award Ceremony or, if the recipient is unable to attend the ceremony, alternative arrangements will be made in consultation with the recipient.

2026 Award Ceremony – Thursday 3 December 2026