



Southern Cross
University



Student Excellence Awards

Information and tips for submitting a nomination



Transforming > Tomorrow

Information: 2026 Southern Cross University Student Excellence Awards

Award process

SCU students can self-nominate or be nominated by another SCU student or staff member.

Nomination Submission: The nomination form should be completed and submitted via the online portal before the award nomination closing date. Start your nomination via the Southern Cross University Student Excellence Awards webpage.

Nomination closing date: At 11.59 pm on Friday, 4 September 2026 (NSW time).

No late entries will be accepted. Incomplete nominations will not be accepted.

Selection Panel: The Southern Cross University Student Excellence Award winners will be determined by an awards selection panel comprised of SCU staff. Nominees are not permitted to discuss their nomination with the selection panel. If this occurs, the nomination will be withdrawn.

Finalise awards: The selection panel will assess nominations against the award criteria and determine the awards accordingly. The selection panel reserves the right not to grant any awards.

Award recipients will be announced on Thursday, 19 November 2026.

Award eligibility

All nominees must be enrolled students or on approved leave of absence for at least one teaching period in 2026. Nominees can be enrolled full-time or part-time and can be from any academic cohort, such as undergraduate or postgraduate.

All nominees must meet the award eligibility criteria for the preceding 12 months.

Nominees must have achieved a satisfactory academic record, with no adverse misconduct finding made in the award period as per the Student Academic and Non - Academic Misconduct Rules.

Nomination requirements

Nominations need to articulate how the student is eligible for a Student Excellence Award.

Nominations must include the following information:

Staff nominating a student:

- Endorsement of the nomination, including evidence of the achievements/reasons for the nomination (approx. 300 - 500 words)
- Supporting documentation, e.g., photos, social media posts, media coverage, testimonials, videos, etc.

Students nominating another student:

- Endorsement of the nomination, including evidence of the achievements/reasons for the nomination (approx. 300 - 500 words)
- Supporting documentation, e.g., photos, social media posts, media coverage, testimonials, videos, etc.

Self-nomination:

- Description of the nomination, including evidence of the achievements/reasons for the self-nomination (approx. 300 - 500 words)
- Supporting documentation, e.g., photos, social media posts, media coverage, testimonials, videos, etc.
- Letter of support for the nomination on a letterhead from an individual or organisation that the nominee has been involved with, for example, an SCU staff member, stakeholder, community organisation, club or group.



Step 1

Assess your or the nominee's achievements against the award criteria.

What are the award criteria? The award criteria indicate the types of achievements or actions identified as an indicator of excellence (it is not exhaustive). The selection panel will assess the nominations against the award criteria and determine the awards accordingly.

The purpose of the criteria is to determine the desired standard for nominations and enable transparency and equity when the selection panel assess the submissions. The criteria also enables you to present evidence of excellence or impact in line with the award standards.

Step 2

Prepare the nomination

List achievements in the last 12 months. If you are nominating someone else, you may want to reach out to collaborate with the nominee and ensure they are well-represented. The nominee could also prepare their own submission.

Relate the achievements to the selected criterion/criteria.

Use a word processing program to ensure grammar, spell-check, and word count functions (max 500 words per nomination) are checked.

Use the STAR formula below to demonstrate excellence and/or impact. Start with an opening statement which summarises the nomination in relation to the award criteria.

Step 3

Review the nomination

Review the nomination draft and check it demonstrates excellence and/or impact.

If you are self-nominating, it is suggested to send the nomination to a friend, colleague, or supervisor for feedback.

If you are nominating someone else, it is recommended to send the draft to the nominee, as they may have additional information that can support the nomination.

Once you are happy with the nomination, open the Qualtrics survey and copy and paste the nomination draft into the required field.

STAR: Situation, Task, Action, Result

Situation: Describe the situation where excellence and/or impact have been demonstrated.

Task: describe the role (for example, what were the requirements of the role? Was the role paid or unpaid?)

Action: describe the actions taken

Result: Describe the result/impact of the actions taken in relation to the award criteria. Make sure to include evidence to support the nomination, such as quantifiable results or stakeholder quotes.

Award Criteria

Student Excellence Awards will be granted in recognition of a student who has demonstrated excellence and impact through a significant contribution to enhancing the student experience, fostering positive change or engagement with communities, leading to lasting impact. Please address in your nomination how you meet some or all of the below indicators of excellence.

SCU Student of the Year: Outstanding Student Leadership

Evidence of exceptional leadership demonstrated through a club, society, or other significant student-focused initiative, either individually, in managing a team, or as part of a university program. This includes the ability to inspire and influence others, drive positive outcomes, and contribute meaningfully to student engagement and development. Demonstrated positive contribution to student life at Southern Cross University (e.g. SCU Mates, Peer Assisted Learning (PALS), Ally Network, SCU Social Sports, SCU Sports, SCU Volllies, and Ambassador programs) will be highly regarded.

SCU Student of the Year: Community Advancement

Evidence of significant contribution that leads to positive social change or community advancement. This includes demonstrated impact in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), promoting equal opportunity, and supporting underrepresented or marginalised groups, including a strong commitment to supporting Southern Cross University's international student communities. Contributions may also extend to environmental sustainability or other areas of social significance, with clear evidence of meaningful engagement and impact.

SCU Student of the Year: First Nations Excellence

Evidence of outstanding achievement by a First Nations student who has demonstrated excellence across academic, leadership, and/or community contributions during their time at the University. This includes meaningful impact, sustained commitment, and contributions that reflect cultural strength, community connection, and positive influence within and beyond the University.

SCU Student of the Year: Co-Curricular Excellence (Sports, Recreation and Creative Arts)

Evidence of exceptional talent, dedication, and impact demonstrated through co-curricular activities at Southern Cross University and beyond. This includes sustained participation, achievement, and contribution in areas such as sport, arts, literature, performance, or debating. Recognition at University, state, or national level, and positive contribution to campus life and student engagement will be highly regarded.

