

Equity Student of the Year

2025 eligibility criteria

The Equity Student of the Year award is presented to a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in overcoming a significant barrier or disadvantage to effectively participate in vocational education and training (VET).

Eligibility criteria

You can nominate yourself or someone else, provided you have their consent.

To be eligible, nominees must:

- have completed, or be due to complete, your training in the State of Queensland in the period of 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025 in an apprenticeship, traineeship or training course that leads to a nationally recognised outcome or qualification
- have experienced a significant barrier or disadvantage to effective participation in VET, including but not limited to:
 - low level of education and skill development
 - low literacy and numeracy skills
 - disability
 - culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including refugees
 - long-term unemployment
 - health issues
 - returning to the workforce following care-giving, family responsibilities or change of circumstance
- meet the [conditions of entry](#).

How to enter

The key to success is starting early. Everything you need to know to enter, including help to plan your nomination, is available from the [Queensland Training Awards \(QTA\) website](#).

Scan the code to go online and access:

- a [guide to preparing your nomination](#), including a handy checklist, writing tips, [drafting templates](#) and [examples of successful nominations](#)
- conditions of entry
- information on the judging process
- frequently asked questions
- [contact details for state and regional coordinators](#), who can assist you with your nomination.



Nominations are submitted online via a nomination portal. Access is available from the QTA website during the nomination period only.

You'll have to set-up an account, then complete nomination sections and hit submit. You can edit your nomination right up to closing time, even after you submit.

For help to plan outside the nomination period, you can also [express your interest](#) online.

Section A: Overview

The information in Section A will **not** be considered or used for judging purposes, but it may be used as your summary throughout the awards process.

Your summary

Provide a short overview, including a description of the training course or qualification you enrolled in and why you chose your industry and training pathway.

(Limit 300 words)

Section B: Selection criteria

Nominees will be judged against the following selection criteria:

- Criterion 1: Challenges and barriers to accessing and participating in VET and employment
- Criterion 2: What or who helped you to overcome these barriers?
- Criterion 3: How has VET benefited you?
- Criterion 4: What are your future goals?

Addressing the selection criteria

This information will be considered and used for shortlisting and judging purposes. In your nomination, you must present your information in a way that clearly addresses the selection criteria. Judging panels will be looking for evidence of how you have overcome barriers to achieve training, career and life goals.

The selection criteria should be the focus of the nomination. In developing your nomination, you may wish to take into account the considerations listed under each criterion.

Note: Considerations are not additional selection criteria but are provided to clarify what may be relevant to include when writing a response for each criterion.

Criterion 1: Challenges and barriers to accessing and participating in VET and employment

Explain the circumstances which made accessing and participating in VET a challenge. You may wish to consider:

- any personal or career barriers that have prevented you from undertaking training and securing sustainable employment or a career pathway.
- any challenges you faced while completing your course/training.
- what supports did you use to participate in your course/training program (e.g. coaching, mentoring, resources and referral services)?

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 2: What or who helped you to overcome these barriers?

Think about the support you received on your training pathway. You may wish to consider:

- was there a person or program which motivated you (e.g. family member, supervisor, support worker, community organisation, teacher/trainer or colleague)?
- what role did your registered training organisation (RTO) play in supporting you throughout your training?

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 3: How has your training benefited you?

Consider any skills you have developed through your training and the success you were able to achieve. You may wish to consider:

- how did the course or training you completed help you?
- any achievements you have realised from participating in your course or training program, such as securing employment, going onto further training or being recognised in the community or workplace.

(Limit: 400 words)

Criterion 4: What are your future goals?

Where to next? What plans do you have for the future? You may wish to include information about your future plans and how the completion of your training has helped you in this area.

(Limit: 400 words)

SECTION C: Attachments

Required:

- professional headshot
- 3-5 workplace or publicity photos, ensuring you have consent from everyone pictured ([learn more about photo requirements and access photography tips online](#))
- Copy of qualification/program certificate or copy of competencies achieved.

Optional supporting material, such as:

- letters of support (e.g. a reference from your trainer, employer or community organisation) – recommended
- newspaper, newsletter or other articles
- photocopies of awards or certificates.

Up to five (5) single A4 pages of optional supporting material of relevance may be provided. Excess optional items **will not** be passed onto judging panels for assessment.

Each attachment **must not exceed 10MB**. Accepted file types include JPG, JPEG, PNG, PDF, DOC, DOCX, XLS and XLSX. Multimedia items (e.g. YouTube videos) or discs will not be accepted.



What happens next?

- Nominations are shortlisted for phone or online interviews, with judging at regional and state levels.
- **July – Queensland Training Awards regional finals**, regional winners announced
- **September – Queensland Training Awards state final**, state winners announced

Note: This is a Queensland only award and does not progress to the Australian Training Awards.

More information

For more information, [contact your state and regional coordinator](#) or [visit the QTA website](#).