



**The
Education
Awards
2021**

ENTRY GUIDE

All available categories for the awards
are listed in this Entry Guide*



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The Education Awards

Recognising excellence in the third level education sector of Ireland.

Launched in 2017, the Education Awards aim to recognise, encourage and celebrate excellence in the third-level education sector on the island of Ireland from both State and privately funded institutions.

The award categories are designed to highlight the key areas that impact upon student performance and provide opportunities for educational institutions, their employees and contributors to have their achievements recognised across the various important facets of their operations.

Being shortlisted for an Education Award is an achievement in itself and gives you the chance to showcase your strengths to the whole education community and to perspective new students.

Shortlisted entrants will have their national profiles raised just by making the final, and winners will receive coverage in the national press. And of course, there's the beautiful trophy which the successful entrants will take away at the awards ceremony.

There is no charge to enter the awards so get your thinking cap on and start putting your entries together!

We wish all our entrants the best of luck and we look forward to receiving your entries.

Entering

There are 27 categories to choose from:

Best College of Business
Best College of Science & Engineering
Best College of Medicine
Best College of Arts & Social Science
Best Language School
Best Further Education Provider
Best Erasmus Programme
Best International Collaboration Project
Best Business & Third Level Institution Collaboration
Best Marketing / Communications Team
Best Library Team
Best Academic Partnership
Excellence in the Provision of Professional Services
Best Student Experience Award
Best Student Campus Award
Career Impact Strategy Award
Best Online Learning Experience
Best Education Outreach Award
Student Engagement & Communications Award
Business Collaboration Award
Best Use of Educational Technology/ ICT Initiative of the Year
Best Research Project
Best Green Campus Award
Best Graduate Training Programme
Best MBA Programme **(NEW)**
International Engagement Award **(NEW)**
COVID Crisis Response Award **(NEW)**
Best Student Accommodation **(NEW)**
Best Infrastructure Upgrade **(NEW)**

How to Enter

It is **free** to enter the Education Awards.

When completing your entry, please follow these rules:

- All activities cited in support of your entries must have been ongoing **within the past 12 months** from the closing date of these awards.
- Please ensure your submission fits onto **no more than 5 A4** pages in portrait PDF format, including supporting materials such as pictures, graphs, tables etc.
- Please **answer each of the key criteria points** allocated to the category that you are entering. This is what the judges base their scores on. Back up your key points with other information such as tables, graphics, figures, pictures etc.
- You may enter as many categories as are relevant, however each entry must be **tailored to meet the category criteria**.
- **The entering party has to have an office in the ROI or NI**, and the projects that support their entry must have taken place in these areas, unless stated otherwise in the category criteria (e.g. international awards)

You will need the following to complete your entry

- Your **5 A4 page PDF** entry document.
- A **50 word summary** of your entry. This may be used in full in our Awards booklet or in our script. It must be relevant to the category you are entering. So, if you are entering a project, the summary must be about the project, if you are entering a person, it must be about that person.
- **2 high resolution landscape photos** (300 dpi) relevant to your entry and the category you are entering. So, if you are entering a project, the photos must be about the project, if you are entering a person, they must be of that person. No graphics/collages/logos/watermarks.
- These will be used as part of the AV awards presentation, so choose photos that you are proud to display.
- A **jpeg** version of your organisation **logo**.
- The **name** of the person who will **accept the trophy** on your behalf in the event you should win. This may be used in post Awards media coverage.
- **Please note:** All of the above items will be required in order to submit your entry, and **you will not be able to modify your entry once uploaded.**

Tips on Entering



1. Read the criteria and make sure you answer each point. The judges use the criteria points as a basis for their scores, so make sure you touch on each criteria point. You can use additional facts, figures and information to back up or add to these points. By following the criteria you stand a better chance of scoring highly and make the judge's job easier!

2. Enter the right categories. Some organisations seem to enter certain categories, and then ignore the one that they would stand a much better chance of winning. To start, look through the categories carefully and choose the most relevant to you. This will give you a better chance of winning.

3. Facts are very powerful; and waffle or generalities cut very little ice with the judges. There are lots of ways of presenting data, and one may look a lot stronger than the others. We're not advocating you twist the truth; but we do feel it's within the rules for you to make the strongest possible case for your organisation.

4. Don't write more than you've been asked to supply. There is a limit on the number of pages you can submit (5 A4 Pages). Don't go above this as the judges won't read reams of supporting information. In the same way don't do ultra-minimal entries and simply rely on your profile to get yourself noticed.

5. Put yourself in the judges' shoes. Think about what would really impress them? What makes you special and distinctive? Our judges are all senior people and you need to think about your entry from their perspective. In many cases we see entries prepared by junior members of the team who can miss key selling points. The best entries have input from someone at Board level.

6. Check everything carefully. Many entries include fundamental errors – mainly spelling or grammatical errors.

7. Phone a friend. The events team working on the awards are happy to talk through draft entries and are always willing to give guidance. So if you want to try something a bit different, and would like our thoughts on that before you submit your entry give us a call – we'll do our best to give you a sensible steer.

8. Good presentation pays dividends. You are not judged on how pretty your entry looks, but busy judges are inevitably attracted to easy-to-read, neatly laid out entries. Some of the better submissions include simple, summary bullet points. The best presented entries often incorporate a range of small photographs, clever charts or graphs and other visual material that makes it very easy to absorb and digest.

9. Boast, don't be modest! Your positive opening words are crucial - so begin with the end! This is the hook which will encourage those judging to delve deeper. Don't ramble; get to the point, every word should count. Be proud of what you have done, this is one time when it is absolutely right to boast. Testimonials are very powerful too!

10. Promote your organisation. It is not often you are given the chance to generate free publicity; so encourage and praise your team and you might be surprised to discover that you can win one of the most prestigious awards in the sector. And if you win, think of the huge marketing advantage that will give you.

Judges & Judging Process

An independent panel of recognised and expert judges, representing Ireland's higher education sector, will determine the winners of the Education Awards. The expert panel of judges will bring their expertise and experience to the judging process.

To view who will be judging this year's Awards, visit www.educationawards.ie.

Shortlisting

- Once the entry deadline is reached, all entries will be carefully examined and scored using the criteria by the shortlisting panel of experts.
- The highest scoring submissions will be selected to go forward to the shortlist for each category.
- You will receive an email from the Event Team letting you know if your entry was successful or not.
- The shortlist of finalists will be published in the national press and also on the Awards' website, www.educationawards.ie.

Judging

- Judges are divided into panels, based on their expertise, to ensure any possible conflict is avoided.
- All judges score finalists based on the relevant category criteria.
- Scores are then collected by the event team and collated.
- Scores are sent to the judging coordinator who checks and verifies all scores.
- The highest scoring entrant is declared the winner of that category.

Categories & Criteria

Best College of Business

This award will go to the business school demonstrating the most outstanding overall performance during the past 12 months. It is open to all business schools in Ireland, both within universities and the private sector.

Judges will look for evidence of innovative, bold and creative strategies/initiatives that have helped the school to improve its offering and excel in its field.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Organisation background: Please provide a brief description of the school, such as when it was established, the number of staff and students, academic and professional qualification of staff members, the courses and services provided, and the relevant industry experience, achievements and accreditations on offer.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance against specific indicators such as innovation, infrastructure, teaching and research standards, student experience, alumni relations and development. Please also outline how you stand out from the crowd in this competitive area.*
- *Partnerships and collaborations: Discuss how the school has built partnerships/collaborations with the business community, and outline the benefits this has brought to both sides.*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your college has faced since the COVID-19 pandemic began and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

Best College of Science & Engineering

This award will go to the school of science and engineering demonstrating the most outstanding overall performance during the past 12 months. It is open to all schools of science and engineering in Ireland, both within universities and the private sector.

Judges will look for evidence of innovative, bold and creative strategies/initiatives that have helped the school to improve its offering and excel in its field.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Organisation background: Please provide a brief description of the school, such as when it was established, the number of staff and students, academic and professional qualification of staff members, the courses and services provided, and the relevant industry experience, achievements and accreditations on offer.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance against specific indicators such as innovation, infrastructure, teaching and research standards, student experience, alumni relations and development. Please also outline how you stand out from the crowd in this competitive area.*
- *Partnerships and collaborations: Discuss how the school has built partnerships/collaborations with the business community, and outline the benefits this has brought to both sides.*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your college has faced since the COVID-19 pandemic began and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

Best College of Medicine

This award will go to the school of medicine demonstrating the most outstanding overall performance during the past 12 months. It is open to all schools of medicine in Ireland, both within universities and the private sector.

Judges will look for evidence of innovative, bold and creative strategies/initiatives that have helped the school to improve its offering and excel in its field.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Organisation background: Please provide a brief description of the school, such as when it was established, the number of staff and students, academic and professional qualification of staff members, the courses and services provided, and the relevant industry experience, achievements and accreditations on offer.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance against specific indicators such as innovation, infrastructure, teaching and research standards, student experience, alumni relations and development. Please also outline how you stand out from the crowd in this competitive area.*
- *Partnerships and collaborations: Discuss how the school has built partnerships/collaborations with the business community, and outline the benefits this has brought to both sides.*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your college has faced since the COVID-19 pandemic began and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

Best College of Arts & Social Science

This award will go to the school of arts and social science demonstrating the most outstanding overall performance during the past 12 months. It is open to all schools of art and social science in Ireland, both within universities and the private sector.

Judges will look for evidence of innovative, bold and creative strategies/initiatives that have helped the school to improve its offering and excel in its field.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Organisation background: Please provide a brief description of the school, such as when it was established, the number of staff and students, academic and professional qualification of staff members, the courses and services provided, and the relevant industry experience, achievements and accreditations on offer.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance against specific indicators such as innovation, infrastructure, teaching and research standards, student experience, alumni relations and development. Please also outline how you stand out from the crowd in this competitive area.*
- *Partnerships and collaborations: Discuss how the school has built partnerships/collaborations with the business community, and outline the benefits this has brought to both sides.*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your college has faced since the COVID-19 pandemic began and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

Best Language School

This award will go to the language school demonstrating the most outstanding overall performance during the past 12 months. It is open to all language schools in Ireland.

Judges will look for evidence of innovative, bold and creative strategies/initiatives that have helped the school to improve its offering and excel in its field.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Organisation background: Please provide a brief description of the school, such as when it was established, the number of staff and students, academic and professional qualification of staff members, the courses and services provided, and the relevant industry experience, achievements and accreditations on offer.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance against specific indicators such as innovation, infrastructure, teaching and research standards, student experience, alumni relations and development. Please also outline how you stand out from the crowd in this competitive area.*
- *Partnerships and collaborations: Discuss how the school has built partnerships/collaborations with other organisations to assist its students and further their training needs (e.g. internships), and outline the benefits this has brought to both sides.*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your school has faced since the COVID-19 pandemic began and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

Best Further Education Provider

This award will go to the further education provider that has demonstrated the most outstanding overall performance during the past 12 months. It is open to all further education providers in Ireland, both within universities and the private sector.

Judges will look for evidence of innovative, bold and creative strategies/initiatives that have helped the school to improve its offering and excel in its field.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Organisation background: Please provide a brief description of the school, such as when it was established, the number of staff and students, academic and professional qualification of staff members, the courses and services provided, and the relevant industry experience, achievements and accreditations on offer.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance against specific indicators such as innovation, learning outcomes, infrastructure, teaching and research standards, student experience, employment statistics, alumni relations and development. Please also outline how you stand out from the crowd in this competitive area.*
- *Partnerships and collaborations: Discuss how the school has built partnerships/collaborations with other organisations to assist its students and further their training needs (e.g. internships), and outline the benefits this has brought to both sides.*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your organisation has faced since the COVID-19 pandemic began and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

Best Erasmus Programme

This award will go to the Erasmus programme that has brought the highest level of enrichment and growth to its students over the past 12 months. It is open to all Erasmus programmes on offer in Ireland.

Judges will look for evidence of innovative, bold and creative strategies/initiatives that have been used to help make the programme engaging, inspiring, and successful.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Organisation background: Please provide a brief description of the organisation offering the Erasmus programme, such as when it was established, the number of staff and/or students, academic and professional qualification of staff members, the courses and services provided, and the relevant industry experience, achievements and accreditations on offer.*
- *Erasmus programme: Please outline the nature of the Erasmus programme. Include details of partner organisations/countries, the accreditations on offer and the manner in which course credits are transferred/recognised.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance throughout the programme against specific indicators such as innovation, infrastructure, teaching and research standards, student experience, alumni relations and development. Please also outline how your programme stand out from the rest in this competitive area.*
- *Partnerships and collaborations: Discuss whether any collaboration or partnerships have been established to complement the programme (e.g. internships), and outline the benefits this has brought to both sides.*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your organisation has faced since the COVID-19 pandemic began and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

International Collaboration Project

This award will go to the international collaboration project that has seen the highest level of enrichment and growth between the relevant organisations over the past 12 months. It is open to all international collaborations worldwide that have contributed to the furthering of education.

Judges will look for evidence of innovative, bold and creative strategies/initiatives that have been used to help the organisations work together effectively to create mutual contributions and improvement.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Organisation background: Please provide a brief description of each organisation, such as when they were established, the number of staff and/or students, academic and professional qualification of staff members, the courses and services provided, and the relevant industry experience, achievements and accreditations on offer.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance of each organisation against specific indicators such as innovation, infrastructure, teaching and research standards, student experience, alumni relations and development. Please also outline how your collaboration stand out from the rest in this competitive area.*
- *Partnerships and collaborations: Discuss how the collaboration has been established, and outline the benefits it has brought to each organisation involved in it.*
- *Challenges: outline the challenges this collaboration project faced over the past 12 months and how each organisation demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

Best Business & Third Level Institution Collaboration

This award will go to the collaboration between a business and a third level institution that has seen the highest level of enrichment and growth between both organisations over the past 12 months. It is open to all businesses and third level institutions in Ireland, both within universities and the private sector.

Judges will look for evidence of innovative, bold and creative strategies/initiatives that have been used to help the organisations work together effectively to create mutual contributions and improvement.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Organisation background: Please provide a brief description of each organisation, such as when they were established, the number of staff and/or students, academic and professional qualification of staff members, the courses and services provided, and the relevant industry experience, achievements and accreditations on offer.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance of each organisation against specific indicators such as innovation, infrastructure, teaching and research standards, student experience, alumni relations and development. Please also outline how your collaboration stand out from the rest in this competitive area.*
- *Partnerships and collaborations: Discuss how the collaboration has been established within the business community, and outline the benefits this has brought to both sides.*
- *Challenges: outline the challenges this collaboration faced over the past 12 months and how each organisation demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

Best Marketing / Communications Team

This award recognises the best marketing and/or communications team within an Irish-based third level institution, technical training college or organisation that has demonstrated the most outstanding overall performance the past 12 months.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Background: Please outline the size and nature of your organisation.*
- *Team: Please give details of all team members. Include their positions and roles within the organisation, academic and professional qualification of staff members, as well as a brief career background in respect of each member.*
- *Functions: Describe the functions carried out by the team. What is their purpose within the organisation? What do their everyday tasks involve?*
- *Operations: Outline how the team carries out its tasks. What measure and practices have they put into place to ensure that the team operates efficiently and effectively? This can include communication methods, accountability, etc.*
- *Challenges: Outline any challenges faced by the team in carrying out their everyday tasks over the past 12 months and how the team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Achievements: Please give details of what that team has achieved in the past. What makes them special and worthy of recognition? Have they shown any particular signs of excellence in their tasks?*
- *Future plans: Please give details of any future plans that the team may have. This could include any new tasks to be undertaken, measures to be implemented, or operational infrastructures to be developed.*

Best Library Team

This award recognises the best library team within an Irish-based third level institution, technical training college or organisation that has demonstrated the most outstanding overall performance during the past 12 months.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Background: Please outline the size and nature of your organisation.*
- *Team: Please give details of all team members. Include their positions and roles within the organisation, academic and professional qualification of staff members, as well as a brief career background in respect of each member.*
- *Functions: Describe the functions carried out by the team. What is their purpose within the organisation? What do their everyday tasks involve?*
- *Operations: Outline how the team carries out its tasks. What measure and practices have they put into place to ensure that the team operates efficiently and effectively? This can include communication methods, accountability, etc.*
- *Challenges: Outline any challenges faced by the team in carrying out their everyday tasks over the past 12 months and how the team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Achievements: Please give details of what that team has achieved in the past. What makes them special and worthy of recognition? Have they shown any particular signs of excellence in their tasks?*
- *Future plans: Please give details of any future plans that the team may have. This could include any new tasks to be undertaken, measures to be implemented, or operational infrastructures to be developed.*

Best Academic Partnership

This award will go to the academic partnership that has seen the highest level of enrichment and growth between each partner over the past 12 months. It is open to all academic partnerships worldwide.

Judges will look for evidence of innovative, bold and creative strategies/initiatives that have been used to help the partners work together effectively to mutually contribute and improvement.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Organisation background: Please provide a brief description of each partner organisation, such as when they were established, the number of staff and/or students, academic and professional qualification of staff members, the courses and services provided, and the relevant industry experience, achievements and accreditations on offer.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance of each partner organisation against specific indicators such as innovation, infrastructure, teaching and research standards, student experience, alumni relations and development. Please also outline how your collaboration stand out from the rest in this competitive area.*
- *Partnerships and collaborations: Discuss how the partnership has been established and outline the benefits it has brought to both sides.*
- *Challenges: outline the challenges this partnership faced over the past 12 months and how the partners demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

Excellence in the Provision of Professional Services

This award will go to the provider of professional services that has demonstrated the most outstanding overall performance during the past 12 months. It is open to all professional service providers in Ireland.

Judges will look for evidence of professional excellence, innovation, skill, efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of these services.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Team background: Please provide a brief description of your organisation, such as when it was established, the number of staff it includes, the academic and professional qualification of staff members, the services it provides.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance against specific indicators such as innovation, professionalism, reliability, and efficiency. Please also outline how your organisation stands out from the rest in this competitive area.*
- *Collaborations: Discuss how your organisation has collaborated with clients within the Education industry to add value and contribute to its betterment.*
- *Challenges: Outline any challenges faced by your organisation over the past 12 months and how your team and any other relevant parties demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

Best Student Experience Award

This award recognises the Irish-based third level institution, technical training college or organisation that has provided its students with the best student experience over the past 12 months.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Background: Please outline the size and nature of your organisation and the academic and professional qualification of staff members.*
- *Programme: What kind of curricula or programmes do you offer? Please detail curricula or programme development, student/delegate numbers and course accreditations and affiliations.*
- *Development: How do the courses prepare or develop the students/delegates for their future careers?*
- *Social: Outline the types of initiatives that have been taken to enrich the social lives of the students. This can include any on- or off-campus clubs, societies or associations.*
- *Excellence in Education and Training: Provide examples where an individual or the institution has gone beyond curricular requirements to facilitate students or delegates.*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your organisation has faced since the COVID-19 pandemic began and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Industry Exposure: Outline the exposure of students / delegates to the wider community. This may include listings of invited speakers, details of external research, industrial or other relevant institutions nationally and globally.*

Best Student Campus Award

This award recognises the Irish-based third level institution, technical training college or organisation that has provided its students with the best student campus over the past 12 months.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Background: Please outline the size and nature of your organisation and the academic and professional qualification of staff members.*
- *Campus: Please describe the campus. Outline its size and nature.*
- *Facilities: Outline the facilities that are available to students on campus. This can include sport, leisure, dining, and accommodation facilities, as well as social or educational ones.*
- *Excellence: Explain what makes your facilities stand out. What do they bring to students? How do they enrich their learning experience? Do they help them in their lives on and off campus?*
- *Education and Training: Outline how facilities available on campus have aided students in their studies. Detail any benefits gained from these facilities by students/delegates.*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your organisation has faced since the COVID-19 pandemic began and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Innovations and initiatives: Has your organisation taken any special measures or implemented initiatives to deal with certain issues arising out of every day operations? Please give details of any innovations.*
- *Sustainability: Does the campus adhere to high standards of sustainability? Is it a green campus? Please give examples of this.*

Career Impact Strategy Award

This award recognises the Irish-based third level institution, technical training college or organisation that has developed and put into practice the most effective and efficient career impact strategy that has been ongoing in the past 12 months.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Background: Please outline the size and nature of your organisation and the academic and professional qualification of staff members.*
- *Programme: What courses or programmes are on offer? Please detail curriculum development, student/delegate numbers and course accreditations and affiliations.*
- *Development: How do the courses prepare or develop the students/delegates for their future careers?*
- *Strategy: What measures have been put into place to promote the future careers of students or delegates? This can include training, mentoring, or internship programmes, career fairs, seminars, talks, etc.*
- *Industry exposure: Outline the exposure of students / delegates to the wider community. This may include listings of invited speakers, details of external research, industrial or other relevant institutions nationally and globally.*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline how the recent COVID-19 pandemic has affected your career impact strategy, the challenges you have faced, and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please provide details on dissemination of studies to the broader community. This may include publications, workshops, student awards or details of any competitions entered and prizes attained.*

Best Online Learning Experience

This award recognises the Irish-based third level institution, technical training college or organisation that has developed and integrated the best online learning experience for its students that has been ongoing in the past 12 months.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Background: Please outline the size and nature of your organisation and the academic and professional qualification of staff members.*
- *Programme: What courses or programmes are on offer? Please detail curriculum development, student/delegate numbers and course accreditations and affiliations.*
- *Method: Please describe the functioning of your online tuition. How are the courses delivered? Are there physical classes as well as online tuition? What software is used in delivering the programmes? Are the classes live or pre-recorded?*
- *Development: How do the courses prepare or develop the students/delegates for their future careers?*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your organisation has faced since the COVID-19 pandemic began and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them to deliver an exceptional online learning experience.*
- *Innovation: What innovative tools are being used by your organisation to improve the learning experience and make the process more efficient and effective? What sets you apart from the rest?*
- *Strategy: What measures have been put into place to promote the future careers of students or delegates? This can include training, mentoring, or internship programmes, career fairs, seminars, talks, etc.*
- *Industry exposure: Outline the exposure of students / delegates to the wider community. This may include listings of invited speakers, details of external research, industrial or other relevant institutions nationally and globally.*
- *Please provide details on dissemination of studies to the broader community. This may include publications, workshops, student awards or details of any competitions entered and prizes attained.*

Best Education Outreach Award

This award recognises the Irish-based third level institution, technical training college or organisation that has developed and put into the place the education outreach programme that has been ongoing in the past 12 months.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Background: Please outline the size and nature of your organisation and the academic and professional qualification of staff members.*
- *Outreach: What outreach programmes or initiatives did you put in place within the organisation? Outline the size, nature, goals and successes of the programme to date.*
- *Method: Please describe how your programme functions. What has made it a success and why do you feel it deserves recognition?*
- *Development: How do you intend on developing the programme going forward? Please give details of any plans to expand the programme in terms of size, range or budget.*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your organisation has faced since the COVID-19 pandemic began and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them to deliver an exceptional outreach programme.*
- *Innovation: Are any innovative tools being used by your organisation to improve the programme or enhance the experience it creates? Has the programme made use of any other innovative techniques or methods to become a success?*
- *Results: Please provide details of any successes or significant results achieved through your programme to date.*

Student Engagement & Communications Award

This award recognises the Irish-based third level institution, technical training college or organisation that has developed and put into practice the most efficient and successful student engagement and communications structure that has been ongoing in the past 12 months.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Background: Please outline the size and nature of your organisation and the academic and professional qualification of staff members.*
- *Team: Please give details of any persons involved in any engagement or communications teams. Include their positions, roles within the organisation, and academic and professional qualification of staff members.*
- *Structure: Outline how your student engagement and communications structure operates. Is there a walk-in service? Are there online facilities?*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your organisation has faced since the COVID-19 pandemic began, how this affected your student engagement and communications structure, and how you demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Development: Outline any future development plans for the student engagement and communications structure. This can include any future investments or intentions to expand the structure.*
- *Strategy: What is your student engagement and communications strategy? What makes it operate smoothly and efficiently? Why do you feel the service you provide stands out?*

Business Collaboration Award

This award recognises the Irish-based third level institution, technical training college or organisation that has provided its students with the business collaboration during their studies over the past 12 months.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Background: Please outline the size and nature of your organisation and the academic and professional qualification of staff members.*
- *Programme: What kind of curriculum or programme links into your business collaboration initiative? Please detail curricula or programme development, student/delegate numbers and course accreditations and affiliations.*
- *Development: How do the courses prepare or develop the students/delegates for their future careers?*
- *Value: Describe how the business collaboration works and what value is added to your student' or delegates' learning experiences.*
- *Excellence in Education and Training: Provide examples of how the business collaboration allows students to move beyond the scope of their normal curriculum and enriches their career prospects in broader ways.*
- *Challenges: outline the challenges this collaboration faced over the past 12 months and how each organisation demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Industry Exposure: Outline how your programme has enabled the exposure of students / delegates to the wider community. This may include listings of invited speakers, details of external research, industrial or other relevant institutions nationally and globally.*

Best Use of Educational Technology / ICT Initiative of the Year

This award recognises the Irish-based third level institution, technical training college or organisation that has made the best use of educational technology or that has implemented the best ICT initiative over the past 12 months.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Background: Please outline the size and nature of your organisation and the academic and professional qualification of staff members.*
- *Programme: What kind of curriculum or programme was educational technology or an ICT initiative used in? Please detail curricula or programme development, student/delegate numbers and course accreditations and affiliations.*
- *Structure: How do the courses prepare or develop the students/delegates for their future careers? In what way does the technology or ICT initiative improve the course and aid students in their studies?*
- *Value: Describe how the technology or ICT initiative adds value to the learning experience of students/delegates. Is this a feature that is unique to your organisation?*
- *Excellence in Education and Training: Provide examples of how the technology or ICT initiative allows students to move beyond the scope of their normal curriculum and enriches their educational experience.*

Best Research Project

This award will go to the research project, either domestic or international, that has achieved the highest level of progress and delivered significant performance outcomes over the past 12 months. It is open to all research groups and institutions.

Judges will look for evidence of innovative and creative strategies/initiatives that have been used to help the research community make significant progress and successfully deliver project outcomes. This is relevant to all time scales during the project duration. It may be at the conclusion of the research project, or at a specific time period or milestone during the journey of the overall research project duration.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Organisation background: Provide a brief description of the organisation, e.g. when it was established, no. of staff, academic & professional qualification of staff members, history of research project completions and in work-in-progress, services provided, relevant industry experience, achievements and accreditations on offer.*
- *Project description and scale: Detailed description, project objectives and desired outcomes, funding arrangements, project partners, project timescale (state start, finish date), significant milestones and targets for completion.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance on project completion or the attainment of specific milestones against indicators such as innovation, quantitative or qualitative measures and others. Please also outline how your identified research project performance would stand out from the rest of the entries in this competitive area.*
- *Partnerships and collaborations: Discuss partnership and collaborative arrangements that were possibly established and developed during the course of the project. Outline the benefits it has brought to all parties.*
- *Challenges: Outline any challenges faced by your organisation over the past 12 months and how your team and any other relevant parties demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

Best Green Campus

This award will go to the campus within an Irish-based third level institution or technical training college that has demonstrated a strong commitment to making a positive environmental impact and contributing to a sustainable future.

You must explain what you have achieved so far and what you hope to achieve in the future. We need evidence of an overall strategy that sets out your targets, your ability to achieve targets on time, how you plan to achieve them and hard statistics demonstrating year-on-year comparisons.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Initiative outline: Describe the sustainability efforts in place on your campus. Do you have a Green Committee and/or undertaken an environmental review? Do you have any accreditation, benchmarking or external validation?*
- *Commitments: Describe the commitments (internal or public) and leadership your organisation, particularly top management, has shown in driving the sustainability agenda. Please provide details of any Green Action Plan you have in place and its goals.*
- *Processes: Describe the sustainable processes you have developed in your organisation over the past 12 months to move closer to your sustainability goal.*
- *Training: Describe the training completed to up-skill you and your colleagues to deliver on your stated goals.*
- *Challenges: Outline any challenges faced by your organisation over the past 12 months and how your team and any other relevant parties demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Outcomes & results: What have been the practical benefits of your green initiatives? Show measurable outcomes, with comparisons to previous years where possible.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that support your entry.*

Best Graduate Training Programme

This award will go to the organisation in Ireland that has been offering a best-in-class graduate training and development programme over the past 12 months.

This is open to graduate schemes operated by employers in all sectors in Ireland, including, but not limited to, retail, FMCG, pharma, legal, accountancy, financial, engineering, IT or property sectors.

Entry is by a five page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Demonstrate how the graduate training programme was developed and outline its objectives.*
- *Provide an overview of how the programme has been implemented over the past 12 months, giving specific examples.*
- *Demonstrate the real business benefits of the programme and ROI, providing positive feedback (i.e internal or external stakeholders) where appropriate.*
- *Demonstrate how the programme benefits the graduate, providing positive feedback (via internal surveys or testimonials) where appropriate.*
- *Provide evidence of how you monitor and measure its success against the stated objectives.*
- *Excellence in Training & Development: Provide examples where your organisation has gone beyond curricular requirements to facilitate the graduates, including the number of hours per week devoted to training.*
- *Challenges: Outline any challenges faced by your organisation over the past 12 months, how this affected your programme, how your team and any other relevant parties demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*

Best MBA Programme

This award will go to the MBA programme that has brought the highest level of enrichment and growth to its students over the past 12 months. It is open to all MBA programmes on offer in Ireland.

Judges will look for evidence of innovative, bold and creative strategies/initiatives that have been used to help make the programme engaging, inspiring, and successful.

Entry is by a five-page (A4) submission. The judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts, which places particular emphasis on the criteria listed below:

- *Organisation background: Please provide a brief description of the organisation, such as when it was established, the number of staff and/or students, academic and professional qualification of staff members, the courses and services provided, and the relevant industry experience, achievements and accreditations on offer.*
- *MBA programme: Please describe the MBA programme on offer. Please detail curriculum development, student/delegate numbers and course accreditations and affiliations.*
- *Performance: Provide evidence of exceptional performance throughout the programme against specific indicators such as innovation, infrastructure, teaching and research standards, student experience, alumni relations and development. Please also outline how your programme stands out from the rest in this area.*
- *Partnerships and collaborations: Discuss whether any collaboration or partnerships have been established to complement the programme and outline the benefits this has brought to both sides.*
- *Overcoming the COVID-19 crisis: outline the challenges your organisation has faced in delivering the MBA programme since the COVID-19 pandemic began and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

International Engagement Award

This award will recognise the non-academic staff of a third-level institution who are demonstrating an outstanding contribution to international education, cultural understanding and global experiences that directly benefits the community of the entrant organisation.

This may relate to achievements in international marketing, promoting international engagement, enriching the experience of students – anything that promotes the global values of your organisation.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Background: Please outline the size and nature of your organisation.*
- *Team: Please give details of any persons involved in your organisation's international engagement activities. Include their positions, roles within the organisation, their function, the academic and professional qualification of staff members.*
- *Initiatives: Please outline your organisation's international engagement activities over the past 12 months, including the objectives and outcomes, as well as comparisons with previous years where relevant.*
- *Challenges: Outline any challenges that your organisation faces in its international engagement activities, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and how your team demonstrated initiative, creativity, and leadership to overcome them.*
- *Contributions and Achievements: Describe the contributions and the impact of this team over the past year. What makes them special and worthy of recognition? Have they shown any particular signs of excellence in their tasks?*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

COVID Crisis Response Award

Over the last year, Ireland's education providers have rapidly had to shift to build new capabilities and ways of working that deliver continued value to their students, staff, and stakeholders.

This award will recognise and reward the most the effective and outstanding initiatives created/developed within an Irish-based third level institution or further education provider in response to the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic. Judges would like to see clear examples of pragmatic steps being taken to respond effectively and creatively to immediate and post-pandemic world challenges.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Challenges faced: Please briefly outline the implications of COVID-19 on your organisation.*
- *Initiatives: Please outline some noteworthy initiatives you have taken during this period to strengthen your health & safety systems, academic delivery methods, and your overall operations, and why you think they were exceptional.*
- *Collaboration: Outline how collaboration was successfully embedded into the challenge, including details of initiative, leadership and creativity shown by team members.*
- *Innovation: Please include details of any unique efforts or processes (both academic and non-academic) arising out of the pandemic that have been deployed.*
- *Outcomes & Results: Summarise the outcomes of these efforts. Please also elaborate on how your efforts will help to future-proof your organisation.*
- *Corporate Social Responsibility: Please describe any initiatives you have taken to support your students, staff, communities, and stakeholders during this period. Highlight how sustainability and environmental factors were successfully factored into your planning.*
- *Include any other facts or statements that you feel are relevant to support the entry.*

Best Student Accommodation

This award will go to the student accommodation that beats the rest in providing an exceptional offering and experience to its student residents.

Entry is by a five A4 page submission. The judges will be looking for clear information, backed up by facts and photos, that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below:

- *Background Information: Please outline the size and nature of your organisation, your team, your location, are you university-approved?*
- *Excellence: Explain what makes your facilities stand out. How do you offer an exceptional student-centric environment with high-quality learning, social and recreational facilities?*
- *Options: Please describe the range of rental options and rates available, and how you deliver exceptional value for money.*
- *Customer satisfaction: Please describe your customer services, on-site assistance, and support. Please also provide evidence of high satisfaction ratings by students.*
- *COVID-19 Crisis Response: please demonstrate how you responded to the current global health crisis that supported both the industry and student wellbeing.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that you believe will support your entry.*

Best Infrastructure Upgrade

This award recognises the Irish-based third level institution, technical training college or organisation that has seen the best infrastructure upgrade to its facilities or campus grounds within the past 12 months.

This may include, but not limited to, projects relating to new builds, refurbishments, extensions, landscaping, transport.

Entry is by a 5 A4 page submission; the judges will be looking for clear information backed up by facts and photos that pays particular attention to the criteria listed below.

- *Project outline: Please provide a brief description of the project including the brief, the size and nature of the project, contract value, the dates of commencement and completion.*
- *Project team: Please include a full list of the team that were involved in the project and the roles they played.*
- *Planning and strategy: Why was this project commissioned? What strategy was undertaken to achieve the project's aims and objectives? Was the project delivered on time and within budget?*
- *Collaboration: Demonstrate how a collaborative working approach with contractors and others within your project team benefited you as client and the project overall.*
- *Project Excellence: Explain why you feel this project deserves special recognition for this award, highlighting any innovations introduced.*
- *Health & Safety: Outline the Health and Safety initiatives in place during the project.*
- *Please include any other statements or facts that support your entry, including testimonials where possible.*

Sample Entry Template

Introduction

Organisation Background
Summary of Project Team
Submission Overview — Aims & Objectives

Main Body of Entry

Address the Category Criteria Points:

- *Point 1*
- *Point 2*
- *Point 3*
- *Point 4*
- *Point 5*

Supporting Materials

Graphs, Tables, Pictures, Screenshots,
Testimonials etc. that support the entry

Summary

Main Outcomes & Achievements
of Submission

Need Help?

If you need any further assistance, please contact us using the details below.

 www.educationawards.ie

 team@educationawards.ie

 01 685 4317

*The categories listed in this Entry Guide for the Education Awards 2021 are subject to change at the organiser's discretion.