



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

Alumni Awards Guidelines

Mikhara Ramsing
*2021 Distinguished Young
Alumni Award recipient*





The accomplishments of UQ alumni bring honour to themselves and to their alma mater in a multitude of ways – through leadership in their professions, business and government; ground-breaking advances in science and medicine; success in athletics, humanities and the arts; and service to global and local communities.

The University of Queensland Alumni Awards celebrate the diverse achievements of alumni and provide an opportunity to share these inspirational stories throughout the year.

Award recipients will be widely celebrated – including at the prestigious UQ Courting the Greats awards ceremony.

Nominate an outstanding UQ Graduate

1. Read these alumni award guidelines and conditions of entry for full award criteria.
2. Visit alumni.uq.edu.au/nominate to complete your nomination online. If you are nominating one alum in multiple categories, please complete a separate nomination package for each category.
3. Nominations must include:
 - A current professional résumé/biography of the nominee.
 - A written statement (maximum 1000 words) detailing why the nominee deserves to be recognised and how they meet the criteria for the award.
 - A minimum of two written references in support of this nomination. External referees who are leaders in their profession will be highly regarded.
 - Nominations may also include supporting evidence such as awards, media clippings, electronic media, etc (maximum of three attachments). (Optional)
4. Completed nominations must be received by 5pm (AEST) 15 May 2026.
5. Any incomplete nominations or nominations submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS
FRIDAY 15 MAY 2026**

Please visit alumni.uq.edu.au/awards/alumni for complete details of past alumni award recipients.

2026 Alumni Awards timeline

- **23 October 2025:** Nominations open
- **15 May 2026:** Nominations close
- **May-June 2026:** Nominations reviewed and awardees selected
- **October 2026:** [Public announcement of recipients](#) and Courting the Greats alumni awards ceremony

2026 Alumni Award categories

- UQ Alumnus of the Year (Award created and supported by Alumni Friends)
- Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Awards
- Indigenous Community Impact Award
- International Alumnus of the Year
- Distinguished Young Alumni Awards
- Colleges' UQ Alumni Award
- Gatton Gold Medal
- Contribution to Sport Alumni Award



Conditions of entry

1. An alum cannot win more than one award category in any calendar year and cannot win the same award category more than once.
2. Awards will not be awarded posthumously.
3. Joint nominations will not be accepted.
4. Self-nominations will not be accepted.
5. Immediate family members (spouse, de facto partner, parent, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild) of the nominee are not eligible to submit a nomination or be a referee for the said nominee.
6. Nominations will be accepted for graduates of The University of Queensland or the Queensland Agricultural College (QAC).
7. Current members of University Senior Leadership Group (USLG) and UQ Senate are not eligible to be nominated in any award category.
8. Current UQ students are not eligible to be nominated in any award category.
9. Members of college governance boards are not eligible to be nominated for the Colleges' UQ Alumni Award.
10. Nominations must be accompanied by two written references. Referees must supply their contact details in conjunction with the letter of reference and may be contacted to verify their reference.
11. The selection panel's decision is final on all matters relating to the nomination process and the selection of award recipients; no correspondence will be entered into.
12. The selection panel reserves the right to select nominations to remain valid for up to two years. Nominators will be responsible for updating additional information.
13. The selection panel reserves the right not to allocate an award in one of the categories if, in their opinion, there are no entries of sufficient merit. The number of awards allocated in each category will be at the discretion of the selection panel.
14. The University reserves the right to disclose the identity of the nominator to the nominee.
15. Personal information submitted to the University by the nominator or nominee, in connection with the awards, will be given to the selection panel for the purpose of judging the awards and will be stored in the University's alumni database.
16. Alumni and Community Engagement maintains confidentiality of all submissions and only notifies the award recipients, their nominators, and the nominators of all other candidates. The selection panel prefer confidentiality is maintained and that nominees are not contacted during the nomination process, however understand in some instances contact with the nominee is necessary to gather sufficient information for the nomination.
17. 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.
18. Award recipients will be announced at the Courting the Greats awards ceremony that will be held in October. Award recipients will be honoured at this event.



Leanne Bond
2022 Vice-Chancellor's Alumni
Excellence Award recipient

Georgia Birks
2022 Indigenous Community
Impact Award recipient



Award categories and eligibility criteria

UQ Alumnus of the Year

Award created and supported by Alumni Friends.

Recognises an alum whose distinguished achievements have brought national and/or international recognition to UQ, and in whose development UQ has had a significant role.

Consideration is given to two key criteria:

- Undergraduate or postgraduate academic record at The University of Queensland.
- Distinguished career - relevant evidence may include positions held, overall career achievements, national and international awards, community service recognised by Australian, international or other honours.

Priority is given to those active in their chosen field within the private and public sectors.

Indigenous Community Impact Award

Award is open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous alumni.

Recognises an alum whose outstanding contribution to Australian Indigenous communities has improved outcomes for Australian Indigenous people and contributes to the reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Nominees must meet all the following eligibility criteria:

- Demonstrates an outstanding contribution to Indigenous communities, showing how their work has improved outcomes for Indigenous people.
- Work, whether professional or volunteer, demonstrates a significant positive impact within Australian Indigenous communities.
- Demonstrates how their work contributes to the reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.
- Their role, work and/or contribution in their community raises awareness of Indigenous issues and inspires action, emotion or a positive response in others.

Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Awards

Recognises the significant contributions made by UQ alumni in their local communities and beyond.

Nominees must meet all the following eligibility criteria:

- Demonstrates sustained and significant contributions in one or more of the following areas: professional achievement; cultural achievement or leadership; sporting achievement and/or community leadership.
- Work, whether professional or volunteer, demonstrates a significant positive impact that has been felt by many – locally, nationally and/or internationally.
- Through prominence in their field/profession, brings great distinction to UQ.
- Has achieved sustained success over their career that is noteworthy and exceptional.

Demonstrates leadership qualities in a variety of contexts that could include volunteerism, or community and professional work.

International Alumnus of the Year

Recognises and honours the outstanding achievements of an international alum who has realised distinction in their chosen field and whose accomplishments enhance the prestige of UQ.

Nominees must meet all the following eligibility criteria:

- Work, whether professional or volunteer, demonstrates a significant positive impact that has been felt by many – in their home country and/or internationally.
- Has achieved sustained success over their career that is noteworthy and exceptional.
- Their accomplishment(s) raise their profile and standing within their community, country or internationally and/or bring greater recognition to their profession.
- Demonstrates leadership qualities in a variety of contexts that could include volunteerism, or community work or through their profession.
- Demonstrates the ability to influence decisions within a variety of contexts; for example, within government, industry or through advocacy efforts.
- The nominee must have enrolled to study at UQ as an international student and be currently residing overseas.

Award categories and eligibility criteria

Distinguished Young Alumni Awards

Recognises young alumni (35 years or younger at the nomination deadline) whose early accomplishments inspire and provide leadership to students and alumni.

Nominees must meet all the following eligibility criteria:

- Work, whether professional or volunteer, demonstrates a significant positive impact that has been felt by many – locally, nationally and/or internationally.
- Their accomplishment(s) raise their profile and standing within their community, country or internationally and/or bring greater recognition to their profession.
- Demonstrates leadership qualities in a variety of contexts that could include volunteerism, or community work or through their profession.
- Work and/or contribution in their community inspires action, emotion or a response in others.

Colleges' UQ Alumni Award

Recognises an alum for their outstanding contribution to a Residential College and UQ who continues to make a positive impact on the wider community, nationally or internationally.

Nominees must meet all the following eligibility criteria:

- Demonstrates an outstanding contribution to their College and UQ that has been felt by many – locally, nationally and/or internationally.
- Their accomplishment(s) raise their profile and standing within their College, UQ and the broader community and/or bring greater recognition to their profession.
- Demonstrates leadership qualities in a variety of contexts that could include volunteerism, community work or through their profession. Contribution to their College will be highly regarded.
- Work and/or contribution in their community inspires action, emotion or a response in others.
- The alum must have lived at a UQ residential college for a minimum of one year.

Gatton Gold Medal

Recognises an alum who is a graduate of the University of Queensland Gatton campus or the Queensland Agricultural College (QAC), and have achieved outstanding success in their chosen field.

Nominees must meet all the following eligibility criteria:

- Achieved outstanding success in any field of endeavour which is the result of, or is in any way referable to, their education at UQ Gatton.
- Their accomplishment(s) raise their profile and standing within their community, country or internationally and/or bring greater recognition to their profession.
- Preferably, the nominee, in addition to their particular field of excellence will have made a contribution to UQ Gatton or the UQ Gatton Past Students Association.

Contribution to Sport Alumni Award

Recognises an alum for their outstanding contribution to sport, who continues to make a positive impact through sport.

Nominees must meet all the following eligibility criteria:

- Demonstrates an outstanding contribution to sport as, but not limited to, an athlete, coach, sports leader, volunteer and/or administrator.
- Demonstrates a significant positive impact that has been felt by many – locally, nationally and/or internationally.
- Demonstrates leadership qualities in a variety of contexts that could include through sport, volunteerism, or community and professional work.
- Has achieved sustained success over their career that is noteworthy and exceptional.

Jeffrey Dunn AO
2025 Colleges' UQ Alumni Award

Alumni and Community Engagement

alumni.uq.edu.au/nominate

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