

# 2026 RTSA Graduate Engineer Award



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants for the Graduate Engineer Award shall:

- Have graduated with a recognised engineering degree or related technical qualification from a University in Australia or New Zealand or hold an overseas degree that is recognised at the time of submission of the application, by either Engineers Australia or Engineering New Zealand, or other relevant professional body, as being suitable for CPEng or equivalent professional qualification;
- Be able to demonstrate that in the years since graduation, they have developed their knowledge of the practice of railway engineering in the form of either practical or theoretical research work. The submission of appropriate career episode reports shall be used to support the development of such knowledge; Ideally to have contributed actively towards the objectives of the RTSA; and
- Understanding obtained in the various elements of engineering systems; i.e. design, procurement, estimating, construction systems engineering, planning, safety, quality, project close out etc.

### Other favourably considered criteria:

- Attainment of, or work towards chartered status of Engineers Australia, Engineering New Zealand or another relevant professional body;
- Acted as a role model for prospective engineering graduates; and
- Technical papers or reports, technical analyses or modelling, presentations (company internal and/or external), and publications.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The RTSA Awards Sub-Committee will judge applications and, provided a suitable nomination is received, the award may be made each year.
2. Applications (self-nominations, employer nominations or RTSA Chapter nominations) will close on **Tuesday, 23 June 2026.**
3. If an award is made, the prize shall be full registration at CORE 2026, including advanced purchase return airfares and accommodation, plus a cash prize of AU\$1,000 or its equivalent value in New Zealand dollars. The award will be presented at the CORE 2026. One year's free membership of the RTSA also will be awarded.



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4. The application requires, in addition to the completed online form:

\* An up to date CV summarising the details of the candidate's career to date. It should pay special attention to the criteria detailed in the above.

\* A description of the candidate's engineering achievements detailing technical competence.

\* A reference letter from the candidate's employer / mentor who is prepared to supply further information on a confidential basis, if needed by the Awards Sub-Committee.

\* A second reference letter from a person who also is prepared to supply further information on a confidential basis, if needed by the Awards Sub-Committee.

5. Each winner of the award shall agree that the RTSA may use details of the award in any RTSA, Engineers Australia or Engineering New Zealand publications.

6. All applicants, and their respective referees, shall agree to accept, as final, the decision of the RTSA Awards Sub-Committee as to whether or not the nomination is in order, and whether or not any award is to be made; also that no correspondence shall be entered into. Applicants also shall agree that the RTSA Awards Sub-Committee may make inquiries of their referees.

## REVIEW CRITERIA

To assist candidates to assemble appropriate information for the consideration of the judging panel, listed below are details of the judging criteria that are used as part of the process of evaluation of nominations:

- Understanding obtained in the various elements of engineering systems; i.e. design, procurement, estimating, construction, systems engineering, planning, safety, quality, project close out etc;
- Practice of railway engineering within 4 years of conferral of their degree;
- Evidence of Continuing Professional Development (to advance technical or professional skills such as working towards Chartered status or equivalent professional recognition or relevant postgraduate qualifications);
- Role model for prospective engineering graduates.
- Technical papers or reports, technical analyses or modelling, presentations (company internal and/or external), and publications.



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## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Guidelines to Nominators:

In the following, the RTSA presents to potential nominators (self or third party) the following guidelines for the collation and submission of high quality and meaningful nominations.

- Submit the application online at: <https://engaust.awardsplatform.com/>
- Write the nomination on the basis that the members of the Awards Sub-Committee know nothing about the nominee.
- Write the nomination on the assumption that it will be considered purely on its merits alone, and that any past, related nominations will not have any bearing on the current nomination.
- Write the nomination in the knowledge that the members of the Awards Sub-Committee will be able to consider only what is presented to them in the nomination form and its attachments.
- Write the nomination with a view to presenting material about the nominee that addresses the judging criteria, bearing in mind the weightings which will be applied to those criteria by the Awards Sub-Committee.
- Recognise that the nomination shall have a principal objective of identifying the main attributes of and the contributions that have been made by the nominee.
- Full details of any papers, presentations, articles, project briefs and the like, where applicable, shall form part of the nomination to illustrate the body of work with which the nominee has been involved.
- Ensure that referees provide signed letters of reference to support the nomination.

### Footnotes

Candidates for the RTSA 2026 Graduate Engineer Award shall be accompanied by one copy of a current CV and the two supporting references, which shall be one or two pages whilst giving sufficient detail for the judging panel to appreciate all aspects of the application. The form and the other supporting documents will be retained by the Awards Sub-Committee.



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