

Railway Technical Society of Australasia (RTSA)

2027 Post-Graduate Thesis (PhD) Award

Application Form



The Post Graduate Thesis (PhD) Award will be awarded by Engineers Australia's Railway Technical Society of Australasia (RTSA) to the author of an outstanding doctoral on a topic concerned with the railway industry.

If an award is made for a PhD Thesis, the recipient shall receive a prize comprising a payment of AUD5,000 or NZD equivalent; one complimentary CORE Conference registration plus travel and accommodation; complementary RTSA membership for one year and a framed certificate. At its discretion, the Awards Sub-Committee may make up to three awards in any one year.

Any winner of the award will be expected to attend to receive the prize at a suitable University function or RTSA Chapter meeting.

AWARD CONDITIONS

To be eligible for the above award the following conditions apply:

- The work reported in the thesis shall have been undertaken in Australia or New Zealand by an author for a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) thesis completed during either 2024, 2025 or 2026. The thesis can be about any topic concerned with the rail industry.
- The RTSA Awards Sub-Committee will judge theses nominated and, provided a suitable nomination is received, the award may be made each year.
 - Nominations for the 2027 Post-Graduate Thesis (PhD) Award will close on **Tuesday, 15 December 2026**. Nominations must be submitted online at <https://engaust.awardsplatform.com/> by the above closing date. The application form is also available from the RTSA website at www.rtsa.com.au
- The nominated author must have been primarily responsible for the preparation of the thesis and, this, along with the thesis meeting the university's requirements for completion of the award of the degree, shall be confirmed in writing by the thesis supervisor at the student's university.
- The nomination requires the approval of the author and thesis supervisor at the student's University and shall be accompanied by a 200-word abstract together with an electronic copy (pdf format) of the thesis.
- In addition to the 200-word abstract, the nomination shall also be accompanied by a written statement of up to 500 words, also approved by the thesis supervisor, and which addresses each of the six Judging Criteria that can be found at the foot of page 2 of 2. This written statement will be used as part of the process of review that will be used to select the successful candidate.
- Award Winners are strongly encouraged to submit abstract on their thesis at CORE 2028. date and location TBA Award Winners will be notified by the RTSA Awards Sub- Committee in late May 2027.



RAILWAY TECHNICAL SOCIETY of AUSTRALASIA

The RTSA is a joint technical society of Engineers Australia
and Engineering New Zealand



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- The author shall also agree that the RTSA may publish any abstract for which a prize is awarded and use details of the award in any RTSA or related publications.
- All students making an application, and their respective supervisors shall agree to accept as final the decision of the RTSA Awards Sub-Committee as to whether the project is deemed to be a railway engineering project; whether or not any award is made; and that no correspondence shall be entered into. Students shall also agree that the RTSA Awards Sub-Committee may make inquiries of their University regarding the thesis.
- Applicants shall advise any change of contact details that may occur between the time of their submission and receipt of final advice on judging or award of prizes.

JUDGING CRITERIA

To assist candidates in assembling appropriate information for the consideration of the judging panel, listed below are details of the judging criteria (equally weighted) that are used as part of the process of evaluation of nominations:

- Detail and accuracy of problem definition.
- Level of literature review, referencing, and the use of related published work in the field.
- Degree of innovation on problem solution and contribution to knowledge of railways.
- Level of experimental work, modelling and/or simulation.
- Applicability of research to current railway-related problems.
- Peer-reviewed publications in outstanding journals in the related field and/or presentations at railway-related conferences.

APPLICATIONS

Applications for the 2027 Post-Graduate Thesis (PhD) Award will close on **Tuesday, 15 December 2026**

Award Winners are strongly encouraged to submit abstract on their thesis at CORE 2028, date and location TBA. Award Winners will be notified by the RTSA Awards Sub-Committee in late May 2027.

- a copy of the nominee's current CV;
- a full copy of the thesis;
- a written statement of up to 500 words, also approved by the thesis supervisor and which addresses each of the six Judging Criteria. This written statement will be used as part of the process of review that will be used to select the successful candidate.
- abstract (approx 200 words) of the thesis;
- thesis supervisor, head of school, or Dean contact details and reference;
- official mark awarded by the University for this thesis (if you do not have access to this at the time of submission, you can provide this at a later date);
- 100 words biography and Headshot
- Should the nomination be successful, your photo and biography may be used for promotion.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Awards & Recognition Coordinator

Engineers Australia

E: awards@engineersaustralia.org.au