



The Undergraduate Thesis Award will be awarded by Engineers Australia's Railway Technical Society of Australasia (RTSA) to the author of an outstanding final year undergraduate project on a topic in railway engineering.

If an award is made, the recipient shall receive a prize comprising a payment of AUD2,000 or NZ\$ 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.

At its discretion, the Awards Sub-committee may make up to two "runners up" awards each valued at AUD1,000 or NZ\$ equivalent.

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 final year undergraduate thesis completed during either 2025 or 2026. The thesis can be in any engineering discipline provided that it has a railway engineering topic.
- 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 Railway Undergraduate Thesis 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
- Nominations may be submitted for final year undergraduate projects undertaken jointly by a maximum of three students. However, the nominated author must have been primarily responsible for the thesis, and this, along with the student's mark for the thesis, 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.
- 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.
- 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 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 which may occur between the time of their submission and receipt of final advice on judging or award of prizes.

2027 Undergraduate Thesis Award Application Form (continued)

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
- Applicability of research to current railway-related problems
- Level of Research & Referencing
- Level of Experimentation and/or modelling
- Degree of Innovation

APPLICATIONS

Applications for the 2027 Undergraduate Thesis Award will close **Tuesday, 15 December 2026** The application shall be submitted online at <https://engaust.awardsplatform.com/> and accompanied by:

- a copy of the nominee's current CV;
- abstract (approx 200 words) of the thesis;
- a full copy 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 short biography*
- 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