

NATIONAL TVET EXCELLENCE AWARDS SOUTH AFRICA 2026

TVET Colleges Information Guide

Recognise. Celebrate. Inspire.

1. Introduction

The National TVET Excellence Awards South Africa 2026 recognises and celebrates outstanding achievement among TVET lecturers who contribute to teaching excellence, learner success, innovation, industry engagement and occupational training. The Awards aim to promote best practice, encourage continuous improvement and strengthen the quality and relevance of vocational and occupational education and training.

The Awards are designed to:

- Recognise excellence and innovation.
- Promote learner success and employability.
- Strengthen Industry-TVET collaboration.
- Encourage the sharing of best practices.
- Highlight outstanding contributions to the TVET sector.

Strategic Objective	Intended Outcome
Promote Teaching Excellence	Improved quality of teaching and learning.
Recognise Innovation	Increased adoption of innovative teaching practices.
Strengthen Industry Partnerships	Enhanced workplace-based learning opportunities.
Share Best Practice	Replication of successful models across institutions.
Improve Learner Success	Increased employability, progression and achievement.

2. Award Categories

The following lecturer categories are available:

No.	Award Category	Recognition Focus
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1	National TVET Lecturer of the Year	Recognises the overall outstanding lecturer who has demonstrated excellence in teaching, learner success, innovation, industry engagement, and contribution to the TVET sector.
2	Engineering Lecturer Excellence Award	Recognises a lecturer who has demonstrated exceptional teaching, technical expertise, learner development, and industry relevance within engineering programmes.
3	Business & Utility Studies Lecturer Excellence Award	Recognises a lecturer who has demonstrated excellence in teaching and learner development within Business Studies and Utility Studies programmes.
4	Occupational Programmes Lecturer Excellence Award	Recognises a lecturer who has demonstrated outstanding delivery of occupational programmes, including industry-aligned training and learner achievement in QCTO-accredited qualifications.
5	Emerging TVET Lecturer Award	Recognises an early-career lecturer who has demonstrated exceptional potential, commitment to teaching excellence, and a positive impact on learner development. Suggested eligibility: lecturers with up to five years of teaching experience in the TVET sector.
6	Innovation in Teaching & Learning Award	Recognises a lecturer who has introduced innovative teaching practices, learning technologies, or instructional approaches that enhance learner engagement and success.
7	Work-Integrated Learning Excellence Award	Recognises a lecturer who has demonstrated excellence in facilitating workplace-based learning opportunities, strengthening industry partnerships, and improving learner employability.

3. Nominations by Another Person and Self-Nomination

Nomination by Another Person

Lecturers nominated by a third party will receive an email from the Awards Management Team confirming their nomination. Nominees will have 48 hours from receipt of the notification to accept or decline the nomination.

If the nominee accepts the nomination, they must complete the registration form (i.e., the Self-Nomination Form) to create their own profile and formally confirm participation. Once registration is complete, nominees may prepare and submit their Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) in accordance with the prescribed process and timelines.



Self-Nominations

TVET Lecturers who choose to self-nominate may begin preparing their Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) once they have submitted their online registration and received confirmation of registration from the Awards Management Team, in accordance with the prescribed process and timelines.

4. Key Dates and Important Information

Activity	Date
Nominee Registrations Open	14 September 2026
Nominee Registrations Close	25 September 2026
Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) Submission Opens	18 September 2026
Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) Submission Closes	09 October 2026
National TVET Excellence Awards Ceremony	17 November 2026, Johannesburg, South Africa

Important Notice

Please note that due to the compressed timelines for the pilot implementation of the National TVET Excellence Awards South Africa 2026, submission deadlines are final and cannot be extended. Nominees are strongly encouraged to prepare and submit their Portfolio of Evidence as early as possible.

5. Eligibility Requirements

To participate, nominees must meet the following requirements.

Requirement	Description
Employment Status	Must be employed by a registered South African TVET College, Skills Development Provider or recognised TVET institution.
Minimum Service Period	Minimum 12 months in the current role before nomination closing date.
Professional Standing	Must be in good standing with employer.
Conduct Requirements	No pending disciplinary, misconduct or criminal proceedings.
Achievement Period	Achievements must fall within the previous two academic years.
Nomination Compliance	Complete nomination package required.
Verification Consent	Must consent to verification of information and evidence.



Availability	Must participate in interviews, presentations and verification activities if shortlisted.
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For additional clarity, the category eligibility matrix is as follows.

Award Category	Eligibility Requirements
National TVET Lecturer of the Year	Full-time lecturer; minimum five years' TVET teaching experience; evidence of excellence in teaching, learner success, industry engagement and institutional contribution. Facilitators in College Skills Academies and Artisan Centres; currently full time employed with employee number, and teaching a minimum of 10 students.
Engineering Lecturer Excellence Award	Teaching Engineering Studies or related programmes; minimum three years' teaching experience; evidence of industry integration.
Business & Utility Studies Lecturer Excellence Award	Teaching Business Studies or Utility Studies programmes; minimum three years' experience; evidence of learner achievement and curriculum excellence.
Occupational Programmes Lecturer Excellence Award	Delivering occupational qualifications, apprenticeships, learnerships or artisan development programmes; accredited programme delivery; learner completion evidence.
Emerging TVET Lecturer Award	Maximum five years' TVET teaching experience; evidence of innovation and learner support.
Innovation in Teaching & Learning Award.	Evidence of innovative teaching methodologies, learning technologies or learner support interventions with measurable impact.
Work-Integrated Learning Excellence Award.	Evidence of employer partnerships, learner placements, apprenticeships, internships and employment outcomes.

6. Evidence Requirements Matrix

Use the Evidence Requirements Matrix below as a guide to help you compile a credible Portfolio of Evidence. Nominees are encouraged to submit various forms of relevant, authentic and verifiable evidence that collectively demonstrate their achievements and impact. While examples are provided, the matrix is not exhaustive; you may submit alternative or supplementary evidence where it clearly aligns with the award criteria and can be verified by appropriate institutional, employer, learner, industry, or quality assurance sources.

Evidence Type	Examples of Evidence	Verification Source
Student Performance Data	Pass rates, completion rates, certification rates, trade test results, learner retention, progression data, three-year trend analysis.	Academic records, examination reports, MIS reports, quality assurance reports.



Industry Partnership Records	MOUs, workplace placement records, apprenticeships, internships, employer testimonials, graduate employment data, tracer studies.	Signed agreements, employer confirmations, placement records.
Peer Reviews	Classroom observations, moderation reports, subject specialist reviews, teaching evaluations.	HoDs, senior lecturers, academic managers and approved reviewers.
Student Surveys	Student satisfaction surveys, learner engagement surveys, graduate feedback surveys, focus group reports.	Survey reports and quality assurance reports.
Principal/HoD Endorsement	Confirmation of teaching excellence, learner success, innovation, leadership and integrity.	Official signed letter on institutional letterhead.
Professional Presentation	Professional profile, learner success evidence, innovation initiatives, impact and sustainability.	Presentation submitted as part of nomination package.

7. Portfolio of Evidence (PoE)

The following evidence is required shortly after the registration process (as per the timelines below).

No.	Required Document	Mandatory	Applicable Categories
1	<i>Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) with the following evidence.</i>	Yes	All Categories
	Student Performance Data	Yes	All Categories
	Industry Partnership Records	Where Applicable	Relevant Categories
	Peer Review Reports	Yes	All Categories
	Student Survey Results / Testimonials	Yes	All Categories
	Principal/HoD Letter of Support or Recommendation	Yes	All Categories
	10-15 Slides Professional Presentation	Yes	Finalists

PoE Cover Page or Template

All nominees must submit their Portfolio of Evidence using the official PoE Submission Cover Page, available for download from the event page. The cover page must include the selected award category, nominee details, a list of submitted evidence, a signed declaration of authenticity, and clearly labelled supporting evidence. This requirement will support consistent PoE identification, verification, and evaluation.

ENSURE YOU USE THE FILE SAVING CONVENTION:



AwardCategory_TVETCollege_Province_Surname_Initials_POE_2026

Example:

EngineeringLecturerAward_EkurhuleniTVET_JHB_NgcoboM_POE_2026.

8. How to Submit Your Portfolio of Evidence

Nominees should compile a well-organised Portfolio of Evidence that clearly demonstrates achievements relevant to the award category.

Evidence Submission Process (more guidelines)

1. Compile the required Portfolio of Evidence.
 - a) Obtain a signed letter of recommendation.
 - b) Prepare a short presentation and convert it to PDF.
 - c) **Highly critical:** Complete the mandatory PoE Cover Page and have the Principal or HoD co-sign it.
 - d) Upload all supporting documents into one compressed folder.
 - e) Use the recommended file-saving convention.
 - f) Send the complete Portfolio of Evidence via WeTransfer to:
awards2026@germanchamber.co.za.

Watch a YouTube Video for guidance on using WeTransfer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=to9KMYyexv8>.

9. Guidelines for the PowerPoint Presentation

Professional PowerPoint	Presentation summarising achievements and impact relevant to the award category.	Suggested structure: 1. Professional profile 2. Teaching philosophy 3. Learner success evidence 4. Industry engagement activities 5. Innovation and digital learning initiatives 6. Professional development activities	Presentation submitted as part of the nomination package
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		7. Student feedback highlights 8. Impact achieved 9. Sustainability and transferability 10. Conclusion and future plans	
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10. Assessment Criteria

All nominations will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Assessment Criterion	Weighting	Assessment Focus
Teaching Effectiveness	25%	Quality of teaching practice, learner engagement and instructional excellence
Student Performance	20%	Learner achievement, completion and success rates
Industry Alignment & Work-Integrated Learning (WIL)	20%	Employer engagement and workplace relevance
Innovation & Digital Teaching	15%	Innovative approaches and technology integration
Professional Development	10%	Continuous learning and contribution to the TVET sector
Student Feedback	10%	Learner satisfaction and teaching effectiveness ratings
Total	100%	

Total: **100%**.

Cross-cutting Judging Indicators

For all categories, judges will strongly consider the indicators listed below. This approach makes the awards more rigorous and aligns them closely with the objectives of the TVET sector, while giving judges clear evidence-based measures for selection.

Indicator	Key Question for Adjudicators
Impact	What measurable difference was achieved?
Innovation	What new or improved approach was introduced?
Industry Relevance	How well does the work respond to labour market needs?
Learner Success	What evidence demonstrates improved learner outcomes?
Sustainability	Can the initiative continue and expand over time?
Transferability	Can the practice be replicated by other colleges?



Disqualification Criteria

Non-Compliance Area	Disqualification Trigger
False Information	Submission contains inaccurate, misleading or fraudulent information.
Missing Documentation	Required documents not submitted.
Late Submission	Submission received after the official closing date.
Missing the Registration	Submitting the PoE with registering for the awards
Unverifiable Evidence	Submitted evidence cannot be authenticated.
Ethical Breaches	Professional misconduct or violation of institutional policies identified.

11. Why Participate?

Participation in the TVET Awards is about more than recognition. It is an opportunity to showcase excellence, inspire peers, share best practices and contribute to the advancement of vocational and occupational education in South Africa. By participating, you become part of a national initiative that celebrates excellence, strengthens collaboration and promotes innovation across the Industry-TVET ecosystem.

12. Contact Information

Awards Secretariat and Management Team

For enquiries about nominations, eligibility, Portfolio of Evidence submissions, or the assessment process, please contact the Awards Management Team.

Email: awards2026@germanchamber.co.za

Telephone: +27 (0)11 486 2775