

NATIONAL TVET EXCELLENCE AWARDS SOUTH AFRICA 2026

Companies & Institutions Information Guide

Recognising Organisational Excellence in Skills Development and Industry-TVET Collaboration

1. Introduction

The National TVET Excellence Awards South Africa 2026 recognises organisations that make an outstanding contribution to strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), learner employability, workplace learning, apprenticeship development, skills innovation and industry collaboration. The Awards celebrate organisations investing in South Africa's future workforce through meaningful partnerships, sustainable skills development initiatives, and workplace opportunities.

The Awards aim to:

- Recognise excellence and innovation in TVET support.
- Promote measurable learner and graduate outcomes.
- Strengthen Industry-TVET partnerships.
- Encourage workplace learning and artisan development.
- Showcase scalable and sustainable best practices.

Objective	Description
Recognition	Recognise excellence and innovation in TVET support.
Impact	Promote measurable learner, graduate and institutional outcomes.
Partnerships	Strengthen collaboration between industry and TVET Colleges.
Skills Development	Encourage workplace learning, apprenticeships and future skills.
Sustainability	Promote scalable and sustainable initiatives.
Best Practice	Showcase replicable models that improve skills development.

2. Award Categories

The following categories have been defined for organisations:

No.	Award Category	Recognition Focus
1	Excellence in TVET Graduate Employment	Recognises a company that demonstrates exceptional leadership in recruiting, employing and developing TVET graduates, creating sustainable career pathways and showcasing the value of TVET talent in industry.
2	Excellence in Industry Support for TVET Infrastructure and Equipment	Honours a company that makes a significant and lasting contribution to strengthening TVET infrastructure, workshops, laboratories, equipment, technology or learning resources that improve the quality of practical training.
3	Excellence in Workplace-Based Learning	Celebrates a company that provides outstanding workplace-based learning opportunities, enabling TVET students to gain authentic industry experience, develop professional competence and transition confidently into the world of work.
4	Excellence in Skills Innovation and Future Skills	Celebrates a company that pioneers innovative technologies, digital solutions, methodologies or skills-development models that prepare TVET students for the evolving demands of the future world of work.
5	Excellence in Apprenticeship and Artisan Development	Honours a company that makes a distinguished contribution to apprenticeship and artisan development through structured training, expert mentorship and workplace learning that builds scarce technical skills for national economic growth.
6	Excellence in TVET Industry Partnership	Honours a private-sector organisation that has built an exemplary, high-impact and sustainable partnership with one or more TVET Colleges, strengthening industry-relevant training, expanding opportunity and advancing meaningful employment outcomes.

3. Nominations by Another Person and Self-Nominations

Nomination by Another Company or Person

Representatives of organisations (for the Company Awards) and individuals (for the Private Sector Individual Awards) 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 process (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

Representatives of organisations entering the Company Awards and individuals entering the Private Sector Individual Awards through self-nomination may begin preparing their Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) after submitting their online registration and receiving registration confirmation from the Awards Management Team. All submissions must adhere to the prescribed process and timelines.

4. Registration and Submission Dates

Activity	Date
Nominee Registrations Open	14 September 2026
Nominee Registrations Close	22 September 2026
Portfolio of Evidence Submission Opens	18 September 2026
Portfolio of Evidence Submission Closes	09 October 2026
Awards Ceremony	17 November 2026

Venue

Johannesburg, South Africa

Important Notice

Because of the compressed timelines for the pilot implementation of the National TVET Excellence Awards South Africa 2026, submission deadlines are final and cannot be extended. Organisations are strongly encouraged to begin preparing their submissions and Portfolio of Evidence immediately after registration.

5. Eligibility Requirements

Organisations must:

- Operate within South Africa's skills development, education, training or employment ecosystem.
- Demonstrate achievements achieved during the previous 24 months.
- Be in good standing with applicable regulatory and legislative requirements.
- Submit complete nominations before the closing date.
- Consent to verification and validation processes.

- Have no unresolved findings relating to fraud, corruption or unethical conduct.
- Submit a signed declaration confirming the accuracy of information provided.

Category Specific Requirements

Category	Eligibility Requirements
Graduate Employment	Evidence of employing TVET graduates, retention data, onboarding and career development programmes.
Infrastructure & Equipment	Evidence of support provided to TVET institutions and measurable benefits achieved.
Workplace-Based Learning	Structured learner placements, workplace learning plans and mentorship support.
Skills Innovation & Future Skills	Innovative programmes focused on future-oriented skills and measurable impact.
Apprenticeship & Artisan Development	Structured apprenticeship programmes and apprentice progression evidence.
TVET Industry Partnership	Active partnerships supported by MoUs, governance structures and measurable outcomes.

6. Portfolio of Evidence Guidelines

Evidence may include:

- Graduate employment records
- Apprenticeship records
- Partnership agreements and MoUs
- Project reports
- Case studies
- Impact assessments
- Testimonials
- Photographs and visual evidence
- Workplace learning records
- Skills development programme reports
- Completion, certification and progression data

7. Motivation Report Guidelines

Recommended Report Structure:

1. Title Page

2. Executive Summary
3. Background and Need
4. Project or Initiative Description
5. Stakeholder Engagement
6. Results and Impact
7. Sustainability
8. Conclusion and Future Plans

8. How to Submit Evidence

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

Registration and Evidence Submission Process

1. **Register as a Nominee:** Complete the initial online nomination registration process via the official event page.
2. **Compile the Portfolio of Evidence:** Gather all relevant documents (MoUs, impact reports, data records) as outlined in the guidelines.
3. **Complete the Mandatory Cover Page:** Complete the official PoE Cover Page, including the authenticity declaration and ensure it is co-signed by an independent witness.
4. **Compress and Label Your Folder:** Place all supporting items into a single folder. You **must** compress this folder (ZIP format) and label it using the exact **file save name suggested below**.
5. **Send via WeTransfer:** Upload your compressed folder to WeTransfer and send it directly to the Awards Secretariat at **awards2026@germanchamber.co.za** before the closing date.

Watch a YouTube Video for guidance on using WeTransfer:

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

POE Cover Page or Template

All nominees must submit the Portfolio of Evidence, including the official PoE Submission Cover Page, available for download from the event page. The cover page must include the company/institution name, selected award category, organisation 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 PROPOSED

Category_OrganisationName_Province_POE_2026

Examples

1. GraduateEmployment_CompanyName_Gauteng_POE_2026
2. TVETIndustryPartnership_CompanyName_WesternCape_POE_2026
3. WorkplaceBasedLearning_CompanyName_KZN_POE_2026

9. Assessment Criteria

Assessment Pillar	Weighting
Category Achievement	40%
Impact and Results	30%
Innovation and Excellence	15%
Sustainability, Evidence and Verification	15%

Total: 100%

Cross-Cutting Indicators

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

Indicator	Description
Impact	Demonstrated measurable outcomes
Innovation	New ideas, practices or technologies
Sustainability	Long-term value and scalability
Evidence	Quality and credibility of evidence
Collaboration	Stakeholder engagement and partnerships
Leadership	Strategic contribution and influence
TVET Contribution	Sector-wide value creation

10. Awards Contact Information

Incorporation with:



Funded by:



Awards Secretariat and Management Team

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