

NATIONAL TVET EXCELLENCE AWARDS SOUTH AFRICA 2026

Private Sector Professionals Information Guide

Recognising Individual Excellence in Skills Development, TVET Collaboration and Workplace Learning

1. Introduction

The National TVET Excellence Awards South Africa 2026 recognises professionals who make an outstanding contribution to strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), workplace learning, apprenticeship development, innovation, student opportunities, and industry collaboration. The Awards celebrate individuals whose leadership, dedication, and commitment improve learner outcomes and strengthen partnerships between industry and the TVET sector.

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 private sector individuals.

No.	Award Category	Recognition Focus
1	Skills Development Partnership Champion of the Year	Recognises an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in establishing, growing and sustaining strategic partnerships with various institutions of Higher Learning that advance skills development, workforce readiness and training excellence.
2	Apprentice, Artisan and Technical Skills Development Champion	Recognises an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to artisan and apprenticeship development.
3	Skills Innovation Champion of the Year	Recognises an individual who has introduced innovative approaches, technologies, methodologies or solutions that enhance skills development, workforce readiness and learning outcomes.
4	TVET Student Opportunity Champion	Recognises an individual who has created meaningful workplace, learning and career opportunities for TVET students and graduates.
5	Workplace Learning Mentor of the Year	Celebrates an industry professional who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to mentoring, coaching and developing learners, apprentices, graduates or young professionals in the workplace.

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	23 September 2026
Nominee Registrations Close	04 October 2026
Nominee Registrations Deadline Extension	15 October 2026
Portfolio of Evidence Submission Opens	05 October 2026
Portfolio of Evidence Submission Closes	11 October 2026
Portfolio of Evidence Submission Deadline Extension	15 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. Nominees are strongly encouraged to begin preparing their submissions and Portfolio of Evidence immediately after registration.

5. Eligibility Requirements

Nominees must:

- Operate within South Africa's skills development, education, training or employment ecosystem.
- Demonstrate achievements 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
Partnership Development Champion	Demonstrated leadership in partnership development and stakeholder mobilisation.



Category	Eligibility Requirements
Apprentice & Artisan Development Champion	Proven mentorship and contribution to artisan development.
Innovation Champion	Demonstrated innovation with measurable and sustainable impact.
Student Opportunity Champion	Evidence of opportunities created and barriers removed.
Workplace Learning Mentor	Demonstrated learner mentorship and employer endorsement.

6. Portfolio of Evidence Guidelines

Evidence may include:

- Partnership agreements and MoUs
- Workplace learning records
- Mentorship records
- Apprenticeship records
- Student placement records
- Skills development programme reports
- Testimonials
- Case studies
- Performance reports
- Impact assessments
- Photographs and visual evidence
- Endorsements and references
- Innovation project documentation

7. Motivation Presentation Guidelines

Slide	Content
1	Title Slide
2	Personal Profile
3	Challenge or Opportunity
4	Vision and Objectives
5	Actions Taken
6	Innovation and Creativity
7	Stakeholder Collaboration
8	Results Achieved
9	Beneficiary Impact
10	Leadership Demonstrated
11	Sustainability



Slide	Content
12	Lessons Learned
13	Testimonials
14	Why I Deserve the Award
15	Closing Slide

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 Template

All nominees must submit the Portfolio of Evidence using the official PoE Submission Cover Page, available for download from the event page. The cover page has to include the name, selected award category, 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.

RECOMMENDED FILE-NAMING CONVENTION

Category_Organisation_Surname_Initials_POE_2026



Examples

1. **PartnershipChampion_CompanyName_Ngcobo_M_POE_2026**
2. **InnovationChampion_CompanyName_Ngcobo_M_POE_2026**
3. **WorkplaceMentor_CompanyName_Ngcobo_M_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

Awards Secretariat and Management Team

Email: awards2026@germanchamber.co.za

Telephone: +27 (0)11 486 2775