

# NATIONAL TVET EXCELLENCE AWARDS SOUTH AFRICA 2026

## Companies & Institutions Information Guide

### Recognising Organisational Excellence in Skills Development and Industry-TVET Collaboration

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## 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.      |

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## 2. Award Categories

The following categories have been defined for organisations:

| No. | Award Category                                                              | Recognition Focus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | <b>Excellence in Graduate Employment and Career Development</b>             | Recognises an organisation that demonstrates exceptional commitment to recruiting, developing and retaining graduates and skilled trainees, creating sustainable career pathways and contributing to workforce development through meaningful employment opportunities.                                       |
| 2   | <b>Excellence in Industry Support for TVET Infrastructure and Equipment</b> | 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   | <b>Excellence in Workplace-Based Learning</b>                               | Celebrates an organisation that provides outstanding workplace learning opportunities, internships, apprenticeships, learnerships or other forms of experiential learning that enable learners to develop occupational competence, gain industry exposure and successfully transition into the world of work. |
| 4   | <b>Excellence in Skills Innovation and Future Skills</b>                    | Recognises an organisation that pioneers innovative technologies, methodologies, digital solutions or skills development models that prepare the youth for the evolving demands of industry and the future world of work.                                                                                     |
| 5   | <b>Excellence in Apprenticeship and Artisan Development</b>                 | 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   | <b>Excellence in TVET Industry Partnership</b>                              | 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.

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## 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. Organisations are strongly encouraged to begin preparing their submissions and Portfolio of Evidence immediately after registration.

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## 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

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## 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.

|                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ENSURE YOU USE THE FILE SAVING CONVENTION PROPOSED</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|

**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

### Awards Secretariat and Management Team

Email: awards2026@germanchamber.co.za

Telephone: +27 (0)11 486 2775