

2026 Northern Victoria Institute of TAFE (NVITAFE) Training Awards

Nomination Guide

About the NVITAFE Training Awards

The 2026 NVITAFE Training Awards mark an exciting milestone, bringing together students, staff and industry partners from GOTAFE and Wodonga TAFE in a unified awards program for the first time.

The NVITAFE Training Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students, as well as the teachers, instructors and industry partners whose dedication and support contribute to their success.

All staff are encouraged to submit nominations. Students are also invited to participate by nominating a teacher or instructor, their employer, a fellow student, or themselves.

Finalists receive recognition across NVITAFE with winners announced at the NVITAFE Training Awards ceremony held in Wangaratta on the evening of Thursday 26 November 2026.

Award Categories

STUDENT CATEGORIES

Apprentice of the Year
Defence Student of the Year
First Nations Student of the Year
School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year
Trainee of the Year
Vocational Student of the Year
VDSS Student of the Year
Young Achiever of the Year

STAFF CATEGORIES

Teacher of the Year
Instructor of the Year

BUSINESS CATEGORIES

Employer Recognition Award
Industry Collaboration Award

Aligning with State and National Awards

Most award categories align with the Victorian Training Awards.

Winners of eligible aligned categories could represent themselves and NVITAFE at the Victorian Training Awards, with the opportunity to further progress to the Australian Training Awards.

Eligible finalists and winners may also be considered for other industry and community recognition programs, such as the Master Builders Apprentice Awards and the 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards.

Eligibility

STUDENT CATEGORIES

Apprentice of the Year

Open to any apprentice with a registered training contract that leads to a nationally recognised qualification, and who has studied in 2026.

Trainee of the Year

Open to any trainee with a registered training contract that leads to a nationally recognised qualification, and who has studied in 2026.

School-based Apprentice or Trainee of the Year

Open to students undertaking a Certificate II or above qualification as a part-time school-based Apprentice or Trainee in 2026. Must be enrolled at school.

Vocational Student of the Year

Open to any student in a course of study leading to a nationally recognised qualification and who is studying or will complete their study in 2026. Is not an apprentice or trainee.

Defence Student of the Year

Open to Defence members who are students within a Commonwealth contract where the training is delivered by NVITAFE in 2026.

First Nations Student of the Year

Open to any First Nations students who have studied in 2026.

VDSS Student of the Year

Open to VDSS students (Vocational Education and Training Delivered to Secondary Students) studying vocational courses in 2026 while completing their secondary school certificates. Years 10, 11, and 12.

Young Achiever of the Year

Open to any student in a course of study leading to a nationally recognised qualification and is who is studying or will complete their study in 2026. Students are aged 25 or under.

STAFF CATEGORIES

Teacher of the Year

Nominees must be actively employed by NVITAFE as a teacher.

Instructor of the Year

Nominees must be actively employed by NVITAFE as an instructor or trainer.

BUSINESS CATEGORIES

Employer Recognition Award

Recognises businesses who place significant importance on the training and development of their staff.

Industry Collaboration Award

Recognises an exemplary skills and training development collaboration through a formalised partnership, between an employer or industry body and NVITAFE.

Selection Criteria

Throughout the shortlisting and interview stages, selection criteria used by the Victorian Training Awards is relied upon, and adapted to suit categories that may differ to the State Awards.

STUDENT CATEGORIES

- Career and study achievements
- Team and communication skills
- Ability to be an ambassador for their industry and vocational training
- Other qualities, pursuits achievements or community involvement

STAFF CATEGORIES

- Excellence and initiatives
- Learner needs and focus
- Commitment to vocational educating and training (VET) teaching and learning
- Links with industry and the community

BUSINESS CATEGORIES

Employer Recognition Award

- Extent and quality of training for employees
- Achievements of the business and its employees that can be attributed to training
- Integration of training into business planning

Industry Collaboration Award

- Outstanding practice of the collaboration
- Achievements of the collaboration for training
- Training impacts of the collaboration
- Sustainability and future of the collaboration

How to nominate

Nominating someone is easy. Simply follow the steps below.

1. Visit www.nvitafe.edu.au/training-awards for all information and resources regarding the NVITAFE Training Awards
1. Read the 2026 NVITAFE Training Awards Nomination Guide to confirm your nominee's eligibility and select the most appropriate award category.
2. Complete the [2026 NVITAFE Training Awards Nomination Form](#), providing a response to each question.
3. Email any additional supporting evidence to lheidke@wodongatafe.edu.au.
4. If nominating a student, please ensure they are aware of their nomination. Informing students of both the awards program and their nomination helps ensure a smooth and efficient selection process.

Please note:

Finalists are selected based on the quality of the information provided in the nomination. For student and staff categories, three finalists per category will progress to a panel interview where a winner will be selected.

Nominators do not receive updates at each stage of the selection process. If you would like an update on the progress of your nominee, please contact the Events and Functions Coordinator.

Selection and Judging Process

Student Categories

- Eligibility is confirmed, including verification of training and category alignment. NVITAFE reserves the right to reassign nominees to a more appropriate category where required.
- Teacher endorsements are obtained where the student's teacher is not the nominator.
- Nominees are formally advised of their nomination once nominations have closed.
- Nominations and supporting documentation are assessed against the relevant selection criteria to develop an initial shortlist.
- The relevant judging panel reviews the shortlist and selects up to three finalists per category to progress to interview.
- Nominees are advised whether they have been selected as a finalist.

- Finalists participate in an online interview via Microsoft Teams. Students may invite a support person or teacher to attend and are responsible for making these arrangements.
- Using the selection criteria and scoring matrix, the judging panel selects the category winner following the interviews.

Staff Categories

The Staff Category selection and judging process follows the Student Category process, with the following exceptions:

- Staff Category panellists assess each nomination and supporting documentation against the relevant selection criteria.
- Following the selection of finalists, the panel seeks endorsement from the finalist's Manager.
- Following Manager endorsement, the panel seeks endorsement from People and Capability before finalist interviews commence.

Business Categories

Business Category panellists assess each nomination and may seek additional information from relevant departments where required.

- Business categories are recipients of recognition - there are no finalists and winners
- Interviews are not undertaken for Business Categories
- Following the panel's assessment of the nominees, the Executive Leadership Team determines the recipient(s).

Key dates

Wednesday 15 July 2026	Nominations open
Friday 18 September 2026	Nominations close
Friday 9 October 2026	Shortlisting concludes
Friday 30 October 2026	Interviews conclude
Monday 16 November 2026	Finalists are announced
Thursday 26 November 2026	Awards ceremony

Once nominations close, the awards process includes eligibility verification, shortlisting, interviews, endorsements, finalist and winner selection, and the creation of filmed content featuring each finalist.

To ensure key project milestones are met, nominations received after the closing date may not be accepted.

Support

If you have any questions or need support at any stage of the process, please contact the Events and Functions Coordinator for assistance.

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