

# 2026

# Peter Doherty Awards

for Excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education



## Application guide: 2026 Outstanding Teacher of STEM Awards

In this guide, you will find information to assist you with your application for a **Peter Doherty Outstanding Teacher of STEM Award**. Please read through this information carefully and complete the application checklist on page 3 before submitting your application.

### Eligibility requirements

To be eligible to receive a **Peter Doherty Outstanding Teacher of STEM Award**, you must:

- be a qualified teacher in a Queensland state or non-state school (at least 0.5 classroom-based) and hold Queensland College of Teachers registration; or
- be an ACECQA approved Early Childhood Teacher in a Queensland Government approved kindergarten program; and
- not have previously received a Peter Doherty Award.

Applicants can nominate themselves or be nominated.

If the applicant is nominated by another person, the applicant must:

- agree to the nomination; and
- provide the nominator with the necessary information so they can address all selection criteria.

Each application must be endorsed by the Principal, or by the nominated supervisor of your Queensland Government approved kindergarten program.

### How to apply

Once you have determined that you are eligible to apply for the award, you will then need to:

- write a statement of no more than 1,000 words in support of your application that responds to the selection criteria outlined on pages 2 and 3;
- identify and have the details of two referees who agree to endorse your application. The referees may be asked to provide more information about aspects of your written statement;
- click on the [Entrant Portal](#) to create an account and submit via upload:
  - your application;
  - details of two referees; and
  - each application must be endorsed by the Principal; or endorsed by the nominated supervisor of your Queensland Government approved kindergarten program.

All forms should be completed electronically and submitted with your written statement.



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## Written statement

Your written statement provides you with an opportunity to tell us about your innovative teaching practices that align to the selection criteria, your achievements and interests in STEM, and why you should receive a **Peter Doherty Outstanding Teacher of STEM Award**.

Your statement should be no more than 1,000 words and should clearly respond to the selection criteria outlined in the table below. A selection panel will use these criteria to assess your application. Please note the selection panel will not assess statements beyond 1,000 words.

When writing your response, make sure you are succinct — consider using dot points where appropriate to summarise — and give examples of your achievements and experiences in STEM. You should also include outcomes data to support your application.

### *Selection criteria: Outstanding Teacher of STEM Award*

The applicant:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Demonstrates consistently outstanding science or technology or engineering or mathematics teaching practices leading to improved student achievement and/or early learner engagement in STEM.</b></li></ul>
<p>This criterion is demonstrated through evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>teaching practices tailored to meet the needs of individual learners, with a focus on lifting student achievement and/or early learner engagement. The applicant consistently promotes practices that affirm the belief that every student and/or early learner can learn and achieve;</li><li>fostering a vibrant, supportive and safe learning environment where students and/or early learners are challenged to be critical and creative thinkers;</li><li>a commitment to enacting best pedagogical and curriculum practices in science or technology or engineering or mathematics, including providing developmentally-appropriate work for students and/or early learners that is aligned with the Australian Curriculum, the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia V2.0, <a href="#">Queensland kindergarten learning guideline (QKLG)</a>; and/or</li><li>providing opportunities for extension that promotes and develops deep student and/or early learner understanding of science or technology or engineering or mathematics ideas.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Develops highly innovative programs that foster students' and/or early learners' curiosity, imagination and enthusiasm leading to increased student and/or early learner engagement and participation in STEM.</b></li></ul>
<p>This criterion is demonstrated through evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>leading innovative school science or technology or engineering or mathematics programs that reflect a commitment to the Australian Curriculum, the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia V2.0, <a href="#">Queensland kindergarten learning guideline (QKLG)</a>, and state school or non-state school curriculum priorities;</li><li>developing programs that are engaging and relevant to the local context, leading to an increase in student participation and/or early learner engagement; and/or</li><li>using content and practices that reflect contemporary scientific and technological developments.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Exhibits a deep commitment to building teacher and/or early years educator or community capability through the sharing of best practice in science, or technology, or engineering or mathematics education.</b></li></ul>
<p>This criterion is demonstrated through evidence of:</p>

- building partnerships within and beyond the school and/or early childhood community to implement effective science or technology or engineering or mathematics projects;
- working within professional communities of educators to improve the quality and effectiveness of science or technology or engineering or mathematics education; and/or
- collegial sharing of best practice and building of teacher and/or early childhood educator capability in science or technology or engineering or mathematics education through coaching, mentoring or facilitating professional development.

## More about the awards

### How the award is to be used

The **Peter Doherty Outstanding Teacher of STEM Award** is to be used to assist you to undertake appropriate professional development activities acceptable to your principal, centre director or approved provider and within the normal guidelines of your employing authority.

### Award ceremony

Recipients of the **Peter Doherty Outstanding Teacher of STEM Award** will be invited to attend the August award presentation ceremony in Brisbane. It is anticipated that successful applicants will attend the award ceremony.

If required, travel and accommodation expenses for **Outstanding Teacher of STEM Award** recipients will be paid by the Department of Education.

## Application checklist

Before submitting your application, please ensure that you have:

- ☐ read carefully through the application guide;
- ☐ checked that you meet the eligibility requirements for the award;
- ☐ written a statement of no more than 1,000 words that clearly responds to the award selection criteria;
- ☐ included the details of two referees; and
- ☐ completed the Principal's/supervisor of your Queensland Government approved kindergarten program endorsement of application form.

Once you have completed all items on this checklist, click on the [Entrant Portal](#) to create an account and submit your application.

All forms should be completed electronically and submitted with your written statement.

## Further information

If you would like further information or if you have any questions about the Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in STEM Education, please email [peterdohertyawards@ged.qld.gov.au](mailto:peterdohertyawards@ged.qld.gov.au).