

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



Alumni Awards:
Excellence Unlimited

2022



Western Sydney University's premiere event is back.

Town and Gown Gala Dinner 2022 will be an evening of celebration and distinction.

With a focus on recipients of refugee scholarships, Town and Gown will embody the spirit of Western Sydney University as the leading advocate for vulnerable communities and supporting the challenges and uncertainties they face.

A highlight of the evening will be presenting the 2022 Alumni Awards, which showcase the achievements of outstanding Western graduates.

The night begins with a VIP reception and continues with dinner and a program of stunning entertainment and special guests.

EVENT DETAILS

Date Saturday 29 October

Time 6.00pm - 10.30pm

Venue The William Inglis Hotel, Warwick Farm

Dress Black tie

ALUMNI AWARDS

EXCELLENCE UNLIMITED



The Alumni Awards acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding achievements of our graduates.

Our alumni are an integral part of our story - our history, present, and future.

With a network of more than 200,000 graduates, our alumni community plays an important role in advancing Western as a world-class university with growing regional, national and international impact.

As we continue to build an inclusive, dynamic and innovative culture, we take pride in our role in the community and our growing international reach and reputation as one of the leading student-centered and research-led universities in Australia, and the world.

The awards are open to all graduates of Western Sydney University and its antecedent institutions, with exemptions/inclusions outlined in the Eligibility for Nomination section and under each of the awards categories sections that follow.

THE SEVEN AWARD CATEGORIES ARE:

- Chancellor's Alumni of the Year Award*
- Professional Excellence Award
- Breakthrough Alumni Award
- International Alumni Leadership Award
- Indigenous Alumni Excellence Award
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alumni Award
- Hawkesbury Alumni Award**

*The Chancellor's Alumni of the Year Award is not open for application but will be decided at the discretion of the awards judging panel when considering nominations for all other award categories.

**The Hawkesbury Alumni Award will not be announced at the Town & Gown event. It will be awarded at a separate alumni event at Hawkesbury campus.

Professor Syed Ziaur Rahman, Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine)
Winner of the 2018 International Alumni Leadership Award



AWARDS CATEGORIES



Chancellor's Alumni of the Year Award

This award recognises the significant contributions made by alumni in their local communities and beyond. This is the highest honour the Alumni Awards can bestow.

CRITERIA

This award is not open for application but will be decided at the discretion of the awards judging panel when considering nominations for all other award categories. Candidates chosen for this award will meet the following criteria:

- The nominee is a graduate of Western Sydney University or its antecedent institutions
- The nominee has made a sustained and significant contribution in one or more of the following areas: professional achievement, art and cultural achievement or leadership, sporting achievement, research and/or community leadership
- The nominee has made a significant contribution to enrich and benefit society's development, prosperity and social capital through their community, above and beyond their role in their chosen field of employment
- The nominee brings credit to Western Sydney University through prominence in their field or profession nationally or internationally
- The nominee has achieved sustained success over their career that is noteworthy and exceptional
- The nominee demonstrates leadership qualities in a variety of contexts that could include volunteering, community, research or professional work.

AWARDS CATEGORIES



Professional Excellence Award

This award is designed to recognise outstanding leaders within their industry, profession or field of research who have achieved sustained success throughout their career that is noteworthy and exceptional.

CRITERIA

Nominations must meet all of the following selection criteria:

- The nominee is a graduate of Western Sydney University or its antecedent institutions
- The nominee has contributed significantly to the growth, reach or impact of their industry, profession, or field of research
- The nominee works to promote and facilitate innovation, demonstrates dedication to industry, and the tenacity to persevere through challenges
- The nominee has made a significant positive impact to the social, economic, political and environmental challenges facing communities – locally, nationally and/or internationally.

In addition to the above, nominations must meet one or more of the following selection criteria:

- The nominee has demonstrated outstanding personal achievement to effect a major turnaround or improvement in the performance of their organisation or the contribution of their profession, and/or
- The nominee has made outstanding achievements in the field of arts, contributing to the understanding and significance of culture in Western Sydney and beyond, and/or
- The nominee demonstrates excellence in research, contributing to new and influential knowledge with outcomes of great benefit, advancement and impact.

Breakthrough Alumni Award

This award recognises the achievements of alumni who have performed exceptionally well in their first ten years following graduation.

CRITERIA

Nominations must meet all of the following selection criteria:

- The nominee is a graduate of Western Sydney University or its antecedent institutions
- The nominee graduated within 10 years, from the date of nomination (2012)
- The nominee's accomplishments raise their profile and standing within their community and/or bring greater recognition to their profession
- The nominee demonstrates leadership qualities in a variety of contexts that could include volunteering, community or professional work
- The nominee's work and/or contribution in their community is likely to be an inspiration to the next generation of graduates and the community at large.

AWARDS CATEGORIES



International Alumni Leadership Award

This award recognises and honours international alumni who have excelled in their chosen field and whose accomplishments enhance the prestige of Western Sydney University.

CRITERIA

Nominations must meet all of the following selection criteria:

- The nominee is a graduate of Western Sydney University, its antecedent institutions, or an approved offshore partner institution
- The nominee is living and working in a country other than Australia, and is making a significant contribution to international society through community service and/or professional achievements
- The nominee's accomplishments raise their profile and standing within an international community and/or bring greater recognition to their profession
- The nominee demonstrates leadership qualities in a variety of contexts that could include volunteering, community or professional work
- The nominee demonstrates the ability to influence decisions within a variety of contexts, for example, within government, industry or through advocacy efforts.

Indigenous Alumni Excellence Award

This award recognises Indigenous alumni who have excelled in their profession or made an outstanding contribution to Indigenous Australian communities within Greater Western Sydney and/or beyond.

CRITERIA

Nominations must meet all of the following selection criteria:

- The Nominee is a graduate of Western Sydney University or its antecedent institutions
- The nominee has made an outstanding contribution to Indigenous Australian communities in Greater Western Sydney and/or beyond, and through their professional or voluntary work has demonstrated how their contribution has benefited Indigenous Australian peoples and their communities.
- Proof of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Status must be supplied by the nominee at the time of nomination submission. The following documentation may be provided:
 - (i) A letter from a registered Indigenous Community Organisation with a common seal confirming a person to be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent; or
 - (ii) A statutory declaration signed by the applicant plus a supporting documentation in the form of a genealogy document (such as Linkup NSW), or a letter of support using the University template, or an official letterhead by a recognised Indigenous community member or Indigenous organisation.

AWARDS CATEGORIES



Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alumni Award

This award recognises alumni who have demonstrated excellence in the fields of research, innovation, creative thinking and technology and highlights the impact of their work.

CRITERIA

Nominations must meet all of the following selection criteria:

- The nominee is a graduate of Western Sydney University or its antecedant institutions
- The nominee's accomplishments raise their profile and standing within their community and/or bring greater recognition to their profession
- The nominee demonstrates excellence in the field of research and innovation
- The nominee is a visionary and has demonstrated creative thinking, hard work and courage in exploring new areas in their respective field of work
- The nominee's work and/or contribution in their community is likely to be an inspiration to the next generation of graduates and the community at large.

Hawkesbury Alumni Award

This award recognises Hawkesbury alumni who have excelled in their professional career, community life, international affairs or business.

CRITERIA

Nominations must meet all of the following selection criteria:

- The nominee is a graduate of Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Hawkesbury College of Advanced Education, or from one of the academic units of the Hawkesbury campus of Western Sydney University
- The nominee's work, whether professional or voluntary, demonstrates a significant positive impact on their profession and/or community - locally, nationally and/or internationally.

Nominations and Selection Process



ELIGIBILITY FOR NOMINATIONS

- Each award is open to all graduates of Western Sydney University and its antecedent institutions across all disciplines and courses, with the exception of the Hawkesbury Alumni Award, which is open only to graduates of Hawkesbury Agricultural College, Hawkesbury College of Advanced Education or one of the academic units of the Hawkesbury campus of Western Sydney University.
- Nominations for the awards may be submitted by members of the Western Sydney University community and the wider community.
- Alumni may nominate themselves.
- Joint nominations will not be accepted.
- Nominees do not have to be working in the same discipline from which they graduated.
- Alumni who are current staff, sessional staff and former staff of Western Sydney University and its antecedent institutions are eligible to be nominated. Alumni who are staff at other universities can also be nominated.
- Previous award winners are not eligible for re-nomination in the same award category. Unsuccessful nominees and finalists may re-nominate in subsequent years.
- Alumni may be nominated for more than one award.
- Current members of the Western Sydney University Academic Senate are not eligible to be nominated.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations are open for a period of up to 9 weeks. The call for nominations is promoted to alumni, staff, and external stakeholders through a variety of communication channels including internal e-updates, emails, social media, digital and print.

In addition to seeking nominations from the Western Sydney University Community, the alumni team and school representatives will identify a number of alumni who could be nominated.

A nomination is complete only if all of the following are submitted:

- A completed nomination form
- Two referees (full name, email, contact number, job title, employer and relationship to nominee)

- A written statement addressing selection criteria
- Current curriculum vitae and a recent photo of nominee
- Proof of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status, applicable only for nominations to the Indigenous Alumni Excellence Award.

Additional supporting evidence such as awards, media clippings, electronic media footage, etc. are optional. Any incomplete nomination will not be considered for the awards.

To submit a nomination, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/alumniawards

JUDGING PANEL

Once all nominations have been received and recorded in our database, a selection panel of internal stakeholders convenes to shortlist six applicants for each category.

Shortlisted applicants are then considered for final selection by the judging panel which is chaired by the Western Sydney University Chancellor, Professor Peter Shergold, AC.

The judging panel will consist of a cross section of representatives from the university's senior executive team, board of trustees, alumni, and the Western Sydney University community and/or stakeholders.

The Judging panel reserves the right to issue no award in a particular year. The decision of the judging panel is final, and no correspondence is entered into.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Up to three finalists are to be invited to the Town and Gown event as appropriate, where the awards will be announced.

All finalists will receive certificates during the VIP reception prior to the event. Winners for each category will also be handed an engraved trophy by the Chancellor at the reception and then recognised again in a recorded video during the event. Following this, the winner of the Chancellor's Alumni of the Year Award, will be invited to the stage to receive their award.

The winner of the Hawkesbury Alumni Award will be announced and presented at a separate event at Hawkesbury campus later during the year.

Conditions of Entry



- 1.** Nominations may be accepted from graduates of Western Sydney University, University of Western Sydney, or one of its antecedent institutions, being:
 - Hawkesbury Agricultural College;
 - Hawkesbury College of Advanced Education;
 - Nepean College of Advanced Education;
 - Milperra College of Advanced Education; and
 - Macarthur College of Advanced Education.
- 2.** Alumni cannot win more than one individual award in any calendar year.
- 3.** Alumni cannot win the same award category more than once.
- 4.** The number of awards allocated in each category will be at the discretion of the University. The University may, at any time, discontinue any award and create additional award categories at its discretion.
- 5.** The University reserves the right to withhold any award or decide not to grant an award in any category, at its discretion.
- 6.** Awards will not be awarded posthumously, unless otherwise determined by the University.
- 7.** Nominees may request to be removed from the nomination process at any stage of the nomination.
- 8.** The Chancellor's Alumni of the Year Award is not open for application but will be decided at the discretion of the awards judging panel when considering nominations for all other award categories.
- 9.** Nominations must be accompanied by the names and contact details of two referees who may be contacted to verify details of the nomination.
- 10.** The University's decision is final on all matters relating to the nomination process, the selection of winners and the making of any award, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 11.** The University reserves the right to disclose the identity of the nominator to the nominee and the nominator expressly consents to such disclosure.
- 12.** Personal information submitted to the University by the nominator or nominee, in connection with the awards, will be disclosed to members of the award judging panel for the purpose of judging the awards in each category.
- 13.** Nominators and nominees are required to keep the content of their nominations confidential.
- 14.** The nominator's and/or winning nominee's name, image and statement may be published and/or used in any form of University media, in any context pertaining to the awards and the nominator and nominee consent to such use and disclosure.
- 15.** Winners and their nominators, and all other nominators, will be personally contacted about the outcome of their nomination.
- 16.** Award recipients will be announced via email, on social media, and on the University website post event.
- 17.** Winners consent to having their stories and photos published on awards related promotions and media releases, Western Sydney University website, and future edition of the alumni GradLife Magazine.
- 18.** Nominee personal and contact information will not be disclosed publicly, but will be updated on the internal Western Sydney University alumni database for future contact.
- 19.** Nomination applications are to be completed via the online nomination form at westernsydney.edu.au/alumniawards.
- 20.** All submissions must be received by 5pm (AEST) on the nominations period closing date advised.

For more information please contact

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