

INDEPENDENT TERTIARY EDUCATION NEW ZEALAND EXCELLENCE AWARDS - GENERAL INFORMATION

Aims

The aims of the annual Independent Tertiary Education New Zealand (ITENZ) Excellence Awards are to recognise, encourage and celebrate excellence in tertiary education in independent tertiary organisations. They provide opportunities for organisations to showcase what they do best, what stands out in a crowd, to share good practice and for students and staff members to further their careers.

Award Categories

In 2025, there are three award categories and one Supreme Award. There will be one award conferred for each category. Each award comes with a certificate and a prize.

Awards are given for the following categories:

- Tutor of the Year
- Outstanding Performance
- Provider of the Year

Supreme Award

The Supreme Award was inaugurated in 2017. This prestigious and significant award is sponsored by Ako Aotearoa.

One of the recipients of the above award will be chosen by the judging panel to receive the Supreme Award. This award will be conferred for outstanding achievement and excellence.

Sponsors

Awards are supported by sponsors. Sponsors may change from year to year-

Presentation of the Awards

The awards are formally presented at the annual ITENZ Conference.

Panellists announce award winners, reading from citations that are prepared by the panel prior to the presentations.

Winners receive a framed award certificate and a cash prize.

Eligibility for nominations of the ITENZ Awards

The awards are open to member organisations of ITENZ and their staff.

Providers are eligible to nominate teaching staff, support staff, and the organisation for awards under the different categories. The following conditions must be met:

- Nominations must be submitted, and endorsed, by the nominee's Principal, CEO or equivalent.
- In the case where the nomination is for the Principal, CEO or equivalent, the nomination must be endorsed by the Board of Directors or equivalent.

- The nomination must clearly state the Award Category it is applying for.
- Nominees must have been employed in a tertiary organisation for a minimum period of three years and their current employer must be a current ITENZ member. They must have worked in the nominating organisation for a minimum of one year
- Part-time staff may be nominated when their aggregated time in a tertiary organisation totals a minimum of three years.
- The nominee's document/portfolios may be developed either by the nominee or by others on their behalf. Where others have developed the portfolio this must be declared as 'Authored by (include name)'.
- Any nominations that do not meet these conditions will not be considered by the judging panel.

The Nomination

- ITENZ member organisations may make any number of nominations
- The CEO/Director or equivalent of the organisation must complete the Nomination Form accompanying each nomination.
- The Employment History Form must be completed by the nominee to confirm a minimum of three years employment history in the tertiary sector.

The Portfolio

- The portfolio must show the ways the nominee meet the relevant criteria.
- It should include evidence of student feedback; colleague or peer feedback and; where applicable, stakeholder feedback.
- Student evaluations and feedback must be a sample over the period covered by the application.
- It may include, within the 3,000 word limit, up to three formal references (e.g. from students, peers, employers, stakeholders).
- The portfolio must not exceed 3,000 words including references and feedback from students, peers, stakeholders and or industry.
- Tables, charts or illustrations will be not be counted towards the word limit unless they are predominately text.

Submission

Submissions must be made via the ITENZ website and include:

- The completed Nomination form
- The completed Employment History form
- The portfolio with a screenshot of the word count.

Selection process

- A copy of the nominations and portfolios will be sent to the panel members.
- Each will be assessed against the criteria as indicated by the category applied for.
- Panel members must declare any conflicts of interest, and where this exists, will be excluded from evaluating these nominations. Panel members will be automatically excluded from evaluating any nominations from their own organisation. Such decisions will be recorded.
- The panel reserves the right not to award in those instances where the nominations do not meet the required criteria for each category.
- The panel's decisions will be final and no communication will be entered into.

- Where there are two very strong nominations in the same category the panelists may, at their discretion, award a Highly Commended award