

## THE ACSE AWARDS - 2026

The awards program of the Association of Consulting Structural Engineers has been running since 2013. The ACSE Awards seek to acknowledge and showcase the remarkable work carried out by consulting structural engineering firms and their individuals within.

After a decade of being an annual program, the ACSE's Board elected in 2023 to make the awards program a biennial event, and also to reconfigure the nomination and submission process. 2024 is thus the first year under the new system.

As always, the ACSE Awards recognises both **Projects** and **People**, and submissions are welcome from all ACSE individual members or corporate member firms.



# **PROJECTS AWARDS**

## **The entry and submission process**

Entries for the ACSE Biennial Awards (2026) in the Projects categories is a two-part procedure. This consists of:

(1) Expressions Of Interest:

Expressions Of Interest shall be submitted in the form of a short, written entry of no more than 500 words. Each EOI may be accompanied by up to four images on an A3 page, ideally photographs, illustrations, or excerpts of the project's documentation. The EOI shall roughly address the judging criteria relevant to the category being entered (criteria outlined below) and demonstrate the entry's credentials and merit for the award.

The deadline for the EOIs is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2026. The judging panel will review and assess all submissions and create a shortlist of the three most meritorious entries in each category. Those three shortlisted entries in each category will then be invited to prepare a more detailed submission.

(2) Detailed Submission:

Entries that make the shortlist will then be requested to prepare and enter a more detailed submission that directly addresses the seven judging criteria outlined below. The document and entry shall consist of: (i) A PDF document of no greater than 4 x A4 pages and, if desired (ii) up to 2 x A3 pages, also in PDF format. The A3 pages may depict photos, illustrations, drawing excerpts, and other such graphical information to supplement the written component. The A3 pages may not provide additional text or paragraphs. The deadline for the Detailed Submissions is Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2026.

The judges will be looking for how the nominated project directly addresses the criteria outlined below. The submission material needs to be concise and informative.

1. Introduction: Provide an overview of the project (max 250 words)

2. Project Brief: Describe your response to the project brief with specific reference to the structural aspects. (max 250 words)

3. Design & Construction Process: Provide a brief description of the design and construction process. Include information about new or unusual elements used and describe any site constraints with the solutions employed. (max 500 words)

4. Creativity & Innovation: Describe aspects of the project that inspired creativity or adopted/required innovative techniques. (max 250 words)

5. Sustainability: Give details of any environmentally sustainable elements of the project. (max 250 words)

6. Built Environment and Heritage: Describe how the project improves the built environment and/or preserves heritage. (max 250 words)

7. The Challenges and Resolutions: Provide examples of major challenges in this project and how you overcame them. (max 500 words)

8. (Heritage category only): For projects entered in the Heritage category, ensure your entry outlines the heritage constraints and limitations of the building(s), and specifically addresses how your work catered to or was informed by the project's heritage aspects. This is not a question to address separately; ensure your responses in 1 to 7 incorporate these requirements.

Please also note that:

- The font is to be no smaller than 11pt and the submission should ideally include images and technical drawings as appropriate.
- Entries should concentrate on the structural engineering rather than the architectural merit or other aspects.
- Entries are encouraged to be concise.
- The project should have been completed in the last 24 months (or be nearing practical completion).

### **The PROJECTS categories**

- 1. Small Projects** – Projects with a construction budget/cost not exceeding \$5M.
- 2. Medium Projects** – Projects with a construction budget/cost between \$5M and \$25M.
- 3. Large Projects** – Projects with a construction budget/cost between \$25M and \$100M.
- 4. Mega Projects** – Projects with a construction budget/cost exceeding \$100M.
- 5. Heritage** – Projects within the heritage sector or with heritage merit.
- 6. Small Firm Award** – Projects with structural merit undertaken by firms with no greater than five employees.

## **PEOPLE AWARDS**

### **The entry and submission process**

Entries for the ACSE Biennial Awards (2026) in the People categories is a two-part procedure. This consists of:

(1) Expressions Of Interest:

Expressions Of Interest shall be submitted in the form of a short, written entry of no more than 250 words. Each EOI may be accompanied by up to four images on an A3 page, ideally a portrait photograph, and possibly photographs of the nominee's most notable projects or achievements. The EOI shall roughly address the criteria relevant to the award being entered and demonstrate the nominee's credentials and merit for the award.

The deadline for the EOI is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2026. The judging panel will review and assess all submissions and create a shortlist of the three most meritorious entries for each individual award. Those three shortlisted entries for each individual award will then be invited to prepare a more detailed submission.

(2) Detailed Submission:

Entries that make the shortlist will then be requested to prepare and enter a more detailed submission that addresses the criteria outlined below. The document and entry shall consist of a PDF document of no greater than 2 x A4 pages, with a maximum wordcount of 750 words. If desired, the submission may be supplemented with a single A3 PDF document depicting photos, illustrations, drawing excerpts, and other such graphical information relevant to the nominee's profile or work. The A3 page may not provide additional text or paragraphs.

The judges will be looking for how the nominee directly meets the criteria outlined below. The submission material needs to be concise and informative.

### **The PEOPLE Categories**

- 1. The Emerging/Young Professional Award**
- 2. The Eva Tihanyi Award**
- 3. The Gold Award**

The details and criteria are outlined below:

### **Emerging/Young Professional Award**

Any ACSE individual member or member company may nominate an individual they believe is deserving of the Emerging/Young Professional Award. The award aims to recognise an individual who:

- Is employed as a practicing consulting structural engineer in NSW.
- Has worked for less than 5 years since graduation.
- Has demonstrated excellence in their career to date; innovation in the field of structural engineering; and emerging leadership qualities early in their career.
- Has assumed responsibility in the delivery of projects.
- Is on the pathway to becoming a Chartered Engineer (or who has recently attained chartered status).
- Is regarded as a role model amongst their peers.
- Has made a positive contribution to the structural engineering community and profession.

Nominations should include a description of how the nominee has demonstrated excellence in their structural engineering career to date; evidence of their contribution to the structural engineering profession and community; and aspirations for their future participation in the industry. Please demonstrate how the nominee meets the selection criteria listed.

### **Eva Tihanyi Award**

Any ACSE individual member or member company may nominate an engineer they believe is deserving of the Eva Tihanyi Award. Eva Tihanyi was the first female President of the ACSE, and the Eva Tihanyi Award recognises an engineer who:

- Is employed as a practicing consulting structural engineer in NSW.
- Has demonstrated excellence in their career to date.
- Has outstanding leadership qualities and is regarded as a role model amongst their peers and to younger engineers.
- Has made a significant contribution to their firm(s).
- Has been involved in the promotion of diversity in the engineering profession to the community and construction industry.

Nominations should include a summary of career highlights and a description of how the nominee has demonstrated excellence in their structural engineering career to date as a designer, leader and role model. Please demonstrate how the nominee meets the selection criteria listed.



### **Gold Award**

Any ACSE individual member or member company may nominate an individual they believe is deserving of the Gold Award. The Gold Award recognises an individual who has:

- Had a long and distinguished career, demonstrating excellence, leadership, and innovation.
- Advanced the interests and standing of the structural engineering profession.
- Left a lasting legacy in either their company, the profession, or the community in general.
- (Preferred but not essential) Served on the ACSE Board and/or assisted the ACSE in other ways.

Nominations should include a summary of career highlights and a description of how the nominee has demonstrated excellence in their structural engineering career as a designer, leader and role model. Please demonstrate how the nominee meets the selection criteria listed.

## **ENTRY FEES**

(All categories)

Phase 1 – Expressions of interest (per entry/category)

<b>Award Category</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Corporate Membership (Small Company)</b>	<b>Corporate Membership (Medium Company)</b>	<b>Corporate Membership (Large Company)</b>
<b>PROJECTS</b>	\$100	1 submission included. \$100 each additional submission	1 submission included. \$100 each additional submission	1 submission included. \$100 each additional submission
<b>PEOPLE</b>	\$100			

Phase 2 – Detailed submission (per entry/category - shortlisted entries only)

<b>Award Category</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Corporate Membership (All Companies)</b>
<b>PROJECTS</b>	\$200	\$200
<b>PEOPLE</b>	\$100	\$100

*Note: The above fees exclude GST and merchant processing fees.*



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### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ENTRY FORM

(Submit this page with your entry)

Award classification:                      Projects / People                      (Circle as appropriate)

Award category:                      \_\_\_\_\_                      (e.g. "Small" or "Gold Award")

Name of Project/Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of firm:                      \_\_\_\_\_                      (If applicable)

Date of project's practical completion: \_\_\_\_\_                      (Projects categories only)

Primary contact:                      \_\_\_\_\_                      (Person responsible for entry)

Contact's email:                      \_\_\_\_\_

Contact's phone:                      \_\_\_\_\_

(Projects categories only): List all other appropriate entities relevant to the project or whom form part of the entry, i.e.

Client:                      \_\_\_\_\_

Architect:                      \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor:                      \_\_\_\_\_

Other consultant(s):                      \_\_\_\_\_