

AUT



# AUT ALUMNI AWARDS

HANDBOOK

# INTRODUCTION

The AUT Alumni Awards celebrate graduates whose work makes a real difference – in workplaces, communities and lives in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world.

From professional excellence and innovation to community leadership and social change, these awards recognise graduates who turn knowledge into action. Where you start isn't always where you end up – and that's exactly the kind of journey we celebrate.

Presented every two years, the Alumni Awards honour graduates whose achievements reflect the University's values of pono (integrity and truth), tika (ethical action) and aroha (care, empathy and collective responsibility). Their stories show what knowledge that works looks like in the real world – purposeful, practical and driven by impact.

## THE AWARDS

At AUT, alumni includes all graduates, from certificate through to PhD.

On a biennial cycle (every two years), AUT confers the following Alumni Awards:



**OUTSTANDING  
ALUMNI  
AWARD**



**COMMUNITY  
LEADERSHIP  
AWARD**



**YOUNG  
ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD**



**ARONUI IMPACT  
AWARD**



**TECHNOLOGY AND  
INNOVATION  
AWARD**

# OVERALL PROCESS

**AUT recognises that excellence and leadership show up in different ways.**

The Alumni Awards are designed to recognise a wide range of achievements – including those grounded in collective leadership, service, cultural contribution and community-defined impact. They acknowledge that leadership and success can be expressed individually or through whānau, hapū, community and collective contexts.

Nominations are submitted through an open process. Anyone may nominate, including self-nomination, in consultation with the nominee. All nominees must be graduates of AUT or its predecessor institutions (Auckland Technical School, Seddon Memorial Technical College, Auckland Technical Institute and Auckland Institute of Technology), and nominees must be aware of their nomination.

In line with Te Aronui (AUT's Te Tiriti Framework), the awards recognise multiple ways of knowing, leading and contributing, including Māori and Indigenous perspectives and approaches towards leadership, success and impact.

Evidence of impact may be qualitative or quantitative, including relational, collective, culturally grounded and community-defined measures, alongside evidence of scale or reach.

All nominations are reviewed by a judging panel led by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. The panel assesses nominations against the published criteria for each award, considering supporting evidence and the nominee's overall contribution, including cultural markers, values and expressions of achievement, leadership and impact.

The judging panel may, at its discretion:

- Review nominations across all award categories
- Recognise a nominee in a different category where their achievements more strongly align
- Determine the number of recipients in each category, including awarding more than one recipient or no award in a given year

Award recipients are formally recognised at the Alumni Awards Ceremony. All decisions of the judging panel are final.

The University reserves the right to withdraw an award where a recipient's actions or conduct are deemed to bring the University into disrepute or are inconsistent with its values.

# CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY

## ELIGIBILITY (Applies to all awards)

The Alumni Awards are open to graduates whose achievements reflect meaningful impact.

To be eligible, nominees must:

- Be a graduate of AUT or its predecessor institutions

As part of the nomination, nominators are asked to provide, to the best of their ability:

- The nominee's most recent AUT qualification

## ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY – YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For the Young Alumni Achievement Award, nominees must:

- Be aged 30 years or under at the close of nominations

## OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

Recognises a graduate whose work has created lasting impact, earning distinction through leadership, influence and sustained contribution in their field, in Aotearoa New Zealand and/or internationally.

### CRITERIA

The nominee:

1. Has demonstrated sustained contribution and influence in their professional field, including through roles that influence, enable or advance others, organisations or communities
2. Has achieved local, national or international recognition or influence through their work, recognising that influence may be exercised through formal recognition, sector leadership, trusted expertise or long-term service
3. Has shown how their work has enriched lives, advanced knowledge or shaped practice in Aotearoa New Zealand or internationally, including through collective or community-based impact

Evidence of achievement, leadership and impact may include outcomes defined and valued by communities, organisations or groups, including social, business, cultural, environmental or intergenerational outcomes. This includes contributions expressed through collective, relational and culturally grounded approaches.

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Recognises a graduate whose leadership is rooted in service, care and long term commitment, creating positive change for communities in Aotearoa New Zealand and/or internationally. This award reflects leadership grounded in pono, tika and aroha.

### CRITERIA

The nominee:

1. Has made a sustained and meaningful contribution to the community locally and/or internationally through service, advocacy, partnership or leadership
2. Has shown leadership, advocacy or mentorship that has led to outcomes identified and valued by the communities involved
3. Has demonstrated leadership grounded in aroha, with a clear sense of responsibility, care for others and commitment to shared purpose

Evidence of achievement, leadership and impact may include outcomes defined and valued by communities, organisations or groups, including social, business, cultural, environmental or intergenerational outcomes. This includes contributions expressed through collective, relational and culturally grounded approaches.

## YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognises a graduate who, early in their career, has already made a meaningful impact through leadership, innovation or contribution to their profession or community in Aotearoa New Zealand and/or globally.

### CRITERIA

The nominee:

1. Has achieved significant early-career success, demonstrating leadership or excellence within their profession, community or field of practice
2. Has contributed innovation, social value or professional impact within their field or community
3. Has shown clear potential for continued impact, leadership or influence, based on achievements to date

Evidence of achievement, leadership and impact may include outcomes defined and valued by communities, organisations or groups, including social, business, cultural, environmental or intergenerational outcomes. This includes contributions expressed through collective, relational and culturally grounded approaches.

## ARONUI IMPACT AWARD

Recognises a graduate creating meaningful, sustained and enduring impact through Māori or Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing. Impact may be shaped by people, place and community in Aotearoa New Zealand and/or globally.

### WHAT WE MEAN BY MĀORI AND INDIGENOUS IMPACT

At AUT, Māori and Indigenous impact recognises ways of contributing that are grounded in kaupapa (shared purpose) and shaped by values, relationships, reciprocity and responsibility to people and place. It includes relational, collective, and community-defined contributions, where impact is expressed through shared benefit, long-term wellbeing and outcomes that are meaningful to the communities served. This impact may extend across generations and reflect a commitment to the wellbeing of current and future descendants – mō ngā uri me ngā mokopuna katoa.

### CRITERIA

The nominee:

1. Has demonstrated Māori or Indigenous values, concepts and approaches to impact
  - Demonstrates a clear understanding and application of Māori or Indigenous values, concepts and ways of working, creating impact that is relational, culturally grounded and shaped by these perspectives, including through whānau, hapū, communities or place.
2. Has contributed to collective impact shaped by people and communities
  - Contributes to outcomes defined and valued by the communities involved. Impact is expressed through collective effort, shared benefit and reciprocal relationships, and reflects outcomes determined by the communities and peoples it serves.
3. Has contributed to strengthening Māori or Indigenous ways of knowing, being or doing
  - Supports the continuation, visibility or application of Māori or Indigenous knowledge, perspectives or practices, enabling others and uplifting people and communities over time.

## TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AWARD

Recognises a graduate who has turned ideas into action through technology-led innovation, entrepreneurship or applied research, creating real-world impact in Aotearoa New Zealand and/or internationally.

### WHAT WE MEAN BY TECHNOLOGY

At AUT, technology is about applied knowledge in action – not just digital tools. It includes the techniques, skills and processes used to solve problems, achieve outcomes and extend human capability. It's knowledge that works in the real world.

### CRITERIA

The nominee:

1. Has shown excellence in technology-led innovation, entrepreneurship or applied research
2. Has applied technology in ways that deliver clear benefit to society, industry or communities
3. Has contributed to the discovery, advancement or adoption of technologies locally and/or internationally

Evidence of achievement, leadership and impact may include outcomes defined and valued by communities, organisations or groups, including social, business, cultural, environmental or intergenerational outcomes. This includes contributions expressed through collective, relational and culturally grounded approaches.

# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To submit a nomination, nominators must complete the official Alumni Awards nomination form and provide the information outlined below.

## NOMINATION STATEMENTS

Nominators are required to submit written statements addressing each of the three criteria for the selected award.

- One statement per criterion
- Each statement may be up to 250 words
- Maximum of 750 words per award
- Statements may be written in the first or third person

Nominations may draw on community perspectives, lived experience or collective voice where this provides a more accurate reflection of the nominee's contribution and impact.

## SUPPORTING EVIDENCE (optional)

Additional material may be submitted to support the nomination, including:

- Word or PDF documents
- Links to websites, media coverage or publications
- Links to audio or video content
- Testimonials or other relevant material

Referees are not required.

## INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE NOMINATION FORM

The nomination form will ask for:

- Nominee details, including name, contact information, date of birth and most recent AUT qualification
- Nominator details
  - For self nominations, nominee and nominator details should be the same

All nominations must be submitted by the published closing date. Nominees must be aware of, and agree to, the submission.

# RECOGNITION AND AWARD

An Alumni Award formally recognises the impact of each honouree's contribution and the mana they bring through their work.

## TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Those based outside of Auckland may be invited to attend the Awards Ceremony, with travel and accommodation arranged and covered by the University.

Award recipients receive:

- Formal acknowledgement reflecting the significance and impact of their achievements, including a trophy and certificate
- Presentation at the Alumni Awards Ceremony
- Inclusion in the University's alumni awards record
- Recognition through University communication channels

Beyond the ceremony, award recipients will be invited to stay connected through future opportunities that support a thriving university and an engaged alumni community.

# TIMELINE

The Alumni Awards are presented on a biennial cycle, with key dates outlined below:

- Nominations close: 31 August
- Judging period: September
- Notification of outcome: September
- Awards Ceremony: November





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