

Wayamba University of Sri Lanka Award for Excellence in Industry Engagement

- ***Awarded to an individual or team who have made an outstanding contribution to the industry through industry-engaged research, effective partnerships with industry and sustained research application and collaboration. This award specifically recognizes industry partnering that does not necessarily result in commercialization of research results, and yet furthers the goals of the University related to industry engagement.***
- ***The University confers one Award for Excellence in Industry Engagement annually.***

Definition of Industry Engagement

Industry Engagement is a process of maximizing opportunities for employers and industry bodies to become involved in and contribute to work-integrated learning.

For this award purpose, the “Industry” is defined as publicly- and privately-owned businesses and enterprises, as well as government business entities and employer bodies such as industry skills councils, industry and professional associations, unions, regulatory and licensing bodies, etc.

In the context of universities, industry engagement involves a variety of activities and efforts to bring corporations and the academics in the university together for mutual benefit. Engagement with industry could include a range of activities, including: a single project or initiative or a “strategic engagement,” in which the university and a corporate partner work together on a continuum of projects and activities such as student recruitment, sponsored research and development, clinical trials, philanthropy, workforce training, joint ventures and groups, industry-integrated courses and programs; industry-led educational innovations, industry-informed learning standards and assessment development, collaborative policy initiatives, etc.

The results of these partnerships can be benefitted to the universities that nurture them in terms of research funding, earnings, skilled graduates and better job opportunities, and universities that better support their faculty and better prepare their students for bright futures. For the companies involved the benefits can be access to new innovations with a positive impact on society, new talent for their workforces, and more skilled workers in high priority fields.

Criteria

Nominee/s or applicant/s must demonstrate excellence in collaboration and engagement with the industry. Engagement with industry could include a range of activities, including:

- Contract research
- Joint development ventures
- Consultancy
- Grant-based partnerships
- Student projects

- Design, prototyping and manufacturing process optimisation
- Testing and analysis
- Industry-integrated courses and programs / Training
- Collaborative policy initiatives
- Licencing agreements, etc.

Nominee/s must be able to demonstrate engagement excellence with industry under the following criteria:

- Describe how the initiative/strategy was initiated, or how the problem or challenge that industry was seeking to address was discovered?
- What were the mutual benefits and outcomes of the engagement, including benefits to industry and the University?

Application/Nomination Process

- Any permanent staff member can nominate an individual or a team for the Excellence Awards.
- Self-applications are also permitted.
- All permanent WUSL employees are eligible to be nominated.
- Depending on the quality of the nominations, one award winner may be selected for each award sub-category (team and individual). Subject to the quality of the nominations for a category, an award may not be made.
- **Individual nominations/applications (where applicable)**

The nominee must be informed before submitting the nomination.

- **Team nominations/applications (where applicable)**

Team nominations would not normally exceed 8 members unless exceptional circumstances apply. Team leaders of the nomination should be informed before the application is submitted to ensure that team composition and contributions are accurately reflected. A team member may be defined as someone who has made a significant contribution.

Reporting Period

The Industry Engagement Award recognises engagement excellence during a calendar year, 1 January to 31 December.

Re-nominations/re-applying

A nominee or recipient of the Industry Engagement Excellence Award cannot be the recipient of an individual award in two consecutive years for the same or substantially similar achievement.

Awards ceremony and prizes

All finalists are invited to attend the annual awards ceremony, where the award winners are announced. Award winners receive a certificate of recognition, and a plaque.

Any award recipient who is no longer employed by the University at the time of the announcement of the awards will not be entitled to receive an award.

Application Process

The application will have:

- The applicant or nominee/s name, email, Faculty/Department.
- For team nominations, details will need to be provided for all team members.
- A 100 word concise overview of the nomination, including
 - a description of the contribution, initiative, program, project or activity
 - how this outstanding and exceptional achievement or success exceeds normal expectations of performance.
- Responses to the selection criteria (max 500 words)

The response should include:

- the contribution, initiative, program, project or activity; and
 - how this significant and outstanding achievement addresses the award-specific criteria listed in the criteria given in the evaluation criteria given below.
- Two (2) supporting letters – one each from external stakeholder and internal stakeholders (staff or student) not exceeding two A4 pages highlighting the importance, mutual benefits and impact of the engagement.
 - A curriculum vitae of applicant/nominee.
 - Evidence must be attached as an annexure.
 - The applicant/nominee is responsible to prepare all required documents.
 - The person nominates the person must endorse the work of the nominee using a cover letter.

Evaluation criteria – Award for Excellence in Industry Engagement

Following criteria shall be considered in evaluating the applications:

1. The impact and significance of the engagement activity in furthering the Vision and Mission of the University. **(10 marks)**
2. The intellectual endeavours contributed by the engagement activity through:
 - The application of relevant knowledge, skills and technological expertise.
 - Its contribution to the body of knowledge.
 - Creativity and innovation.
 - Sensitivity to and the application of ethical standards. **(20 marks)**
3. Communication and dissemination of knowledge and expertise through
 - Appropriate representation of work during and after completion of the project.
 - Communication with appropriate audiences.
 - Use of modes of communication appropriate to these audiences.
 - Analysis and reflection on the service/activity.
 - The sharing of good engagement practice across the University and is of benefit to colleagues. **(20 marks)**
4. The strategic importance of the role performed by the individual/team in terms of:
 - The level of responsibility.
 - Leadership and management of the activity.
 - The level and extent of partnerships/collaborations/networks/ linkages the applicant pursues at local, national and international levels. **(20 marks)**
5. The extent to which the applicant's engagement activities are acknowledged/recognised by:
 - External stakeholders

- Internal stakeholders **(10 marks)**

Note: Need to provide at least one supporting letter from each stakeholder category not exceeding 2 A4 pages.

6. The integration of engagement into the core academic function
 - Integration of engagement with teaching and learning
 - Integration of engagement with research and scholarship **(20 marks)**

Rating Scale

The extent to which the applicant meets the requirements of a specific criterion can be rated on a scale of 1-5. These ratings shall then be multiplied by the weighed marks (eg. For the criteria 5, if the applicant scored a rating of 4, then $4 \times 10 = 40$). Final marks will be calculated as the summation of rating x weighted score (i.e. out of 500) and then converted to 100.

5 = the application excels in meeting all the requirements of the specific criteria

4 = the application is more than acceptable in meeting the requirements of the criteria

3 = the application meets the requirements of the criteria at an acceptable level

2 = the application meets the requirements of the criteria at a level below average

1 = the application does not meet the requirements of this criteria at all.

Applicants should provide sufficient details and evidence to enable the Committee to make judgments according to the selection criteria.

Nominations/applications will be reviewed and selected by a committee appointed by the Senate.

Evaluation panel:

1. One (1) member nominated by the Senate among its members (where possible, not from the faculties of the applicants)
2. Two (2) external members affiliated with professional associations (e.g., Federations or Chamber of Commerce, Industry Chambers) or corporate sector (after declaring no conflict of interest with the work claimed by the applicant/nominees), or governments institutes relevant to the industry.

Committee recommendations will be made on the basis of the information submitted; the committee does not solicit additional information. The marks are given by the evaluators independently and the average marks are considered for the selection of the awardee.

An applicant must score a minimum of 75% marks for the eligibility of the award. If an applicant/nominee is not selected for the award after scoring more than 75% marks, he/she will be awarded a merit award.

Additional members with specific expertise may be invited based on the applications received by the Selection Committee.

The Committee may invite applicants for an interview, if deemed necessary.

The Committee may decide not to make an award for the year under review if it is of the opinion that no applicants qualify for the award.

Submitted to the ADPSEC by:

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Professor Nisha Kottearachchi – Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture & Plantation Management

Dr Asankha Pallegedara – Senior Lecturer, Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Applied Sciences

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Revised based on the comments received from the ADPSEC held on 10.01.2023