



Welcome

It is more than 15 years since we presented our highest honour, the CIEEM Medal, to Sir David Attenborough. The annual CIEEM Awards have now grown into the foremost celebration of the outstanding work of ecologists and environmental managers across the UK and Ireland. They provide a wonderful opportunity for us to recognise the incredible contribution that you all make to the profession and to the sustainability of the natural environment.

“The future, as we know, is troubled. And it’s in your hands, and your expertise, and your persuasion, and it’s on your insight and your wisdom that the world is going to depend.” - Sir David Attenborough.

So, as we ask you to think about who or what you would like to nominate for the CIEEM 2025 Awards, please take a moment to reflect on the journey that’s brought you here. Where did it all begin? What first inspired you and could you have done it without the encouragement of others along the way?

These awards are a chance to inspire the next generation, to recognise the skills of your peers and to remind one another why we’re here, doing what we do and striving every day to make a difference.

“I wish you the greatest success in years to come, because, my goodness, the world needs you.” - Sir David Attenborough.

How to win an award

It sounds obvious but you have to be in it to win it! The awards follow a clearly defined step-by-step process which starts with you reviewing the categories and criteria to decide on those that you are going to enter. You need to make a note of the deadlines for entries (which are strict!) and the entry requirements, including any need for supporters’ statements or additional evidence (again, word /page limits are strict).

Try not to leave completing the entry to the last minute. Your evidence is all the judges will have to make a decision on so please take the time to do it properly. We want the best people, projects and organisations to win.

More details on each category are below.

How the judging works...

Each award is judged by a panel of volunteer CIEEM members. When all the entries are in, we do a check with the judges to ensure no conflict of interests. The judges will independently look through each nomination and then allocate a score against each of the criteria. These scores are then collated, and the judges have the opportunity to discuss the merits of each nomination in detail before drawing up a short-list from which the winners for each category are chosen.

What happens then?

All those lucky enough to have been shortlisted will be contacted in early April and invited to attend the Awards Luncheon. All shortlisted nominees are offered a complimentary place and are welcome to purchase additional tickets for project partners, colleagues, Students, friends and family, subject to any restrictions which may apply at the time.

The fun bit...

The Awards Lunch is a prestigious affair and will include a delicious three-course lunch and all the fanfare of the awards presentation itself. It's a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the success of your colleagues and friends, network and, most importantly, thoroughly enjoy yourselves!

"Everyone from Temple who attended the event thought it was great. It allowed for networking opportunities as well as seeing examples of best practice in the industry. " - Jane Kendall, Temple Group, Sponsors of the NGO Impact Award 2021.

How to use this guidance

Everything you need to know about the Awards is [here](#). We've outlined what the judges are looking for, specific eligibility, criteria and details of how to enter, so have a good read-through before you get started.

A summary of the award and the closing date is given in the table below.

If you would like to submit a nomination:

1. Read carefully through the award specific information and check the entry criteria.
2. Read the Nomination Form Essentials on page 4.
3. Download the entry form(s) from our [website](#).
4. Compile your nomination, including any relevant supporting information.
5. Return your nomination form as a **Word document**, your supporting information as a **single PDF document** and **three high quality photos** for use in the Awards presentation and booklet if shortlisted to awards@cieem.net by midnight on the relevant closing date.

We wish you every success with your entries!

Summary Table of CIEEM Awards 2025

Award	Self-nomination permissible?	Nomination of another permissible?	Closing Date	Page Number
Higher Education Programme of the Year Award	✓	✓	30th January 2025	5
Postgraduate Student Project	✓	✓	20 th December 2024	7

Nomination Form Essentials

We've pooled the collective experience of our past Judging Panels to compile this guidance and help you submit the best nomination possible. Please have a good look through, alongside the award-specific information contained overleaf, before you start to compile your nomination.

1. Think of your nomination as you would a job application; you want it to be engaging, but still professional. It's your sales window, so don't forget to proof-read it before you hit send. Typos and spelling mistakes can make an otherwise stellar submission off-putting.
2. The judges make their assessments based solely on the information in front of them, so assume they know absolutely nothing about your nomination, no matter how widely it's known about in your field.
3. Explain why your submission stands out and why it deserves to win. The judges welcome submissions that deliver the 'wow' factor, especially where supporting material provides underpinning evidence.
4. Be sure to address each and all of the judging criteria as fully as possible.
5. Be as specific and evidence-based as possible when making your case. If your nomination is about a project or initiative, the judges will be looking for evidence of its impact and require strong monitoring and outcome data in support of this e.g. whether habitat creation has been successful in terms of supporting biodiversity. Don't be afraid to nominate a project that was completed some time ago but for which you have good monitoring data evidencing impact. You may be advised to delay submitting a nomination until more material has been gathered.
6. Use the full allowance of words to make the most detailed case for your submission but avoid repetition of material.

7. Do not include maps, photos, links or diagrams in the nomination form, this could lead to your nomination being invalidated. Please include these as part of the supporting information where relevant.
8. Submitting supporting information is strongly encouraged, but make sure it doesn't exceed the specified page count, links or video limits, and that all of these can be easily read by the judges within a reasonable period. Supporting Information is to be submitted as one single PDF document.
9. Make sure that supporting information is relevant, focused, fit for purpose and supports the text on your nomination form by providing additional evidence against the judging criteria.
10. Please submit nomination forms in Word format (so that contact details can easily be redacted before circulation to the judges) and supporting information as a single PDF document.

“Unbelievably proud to have won a CIEEM award in the Promising Professional category! It’s an amazing feeling of recognition for all the hard work I’ve put in over the years.” Lucy Pocock, Winner – Promising Professional 2023

“It was great to be at the CIEEM Awards 2023 yesterday and witness the remarkable talent and fantastic achievements by so many ecologists and teams. The challenges we face for nature recovery sometimes feel insurmountable, but witnessing some of the remarkable restoration projects in particular gave me a lot of hope – and we do need to be hopeful that we can always do bigger and better.” - Paul Whitby, Highly Commended – Member of the Year 2023

Higher Education Programme of the Year Award

This is a valuable opportunity for higher education institutions to showcase their high standards of teaching and receive recognition of their work in promoting employability and entrepreneurship within their programme(s).

Employability is defined as the set of competencies, demonstrated by a combination of knowledge, skills, and behaviours, that produce individuals more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen occupation, benefiting themselves, the workforce, the community, and the economy¹.

Entrepreneurship enhances employability by promoting personal development, fostering those attributes that enable students to transition into successful graduates, actively identifying opportunities that enable them to develop a meaningful career².

What are the judges looking for?

Demonstrable evidence of the way students are prepared for their future careers in ecology and/or environmental management. We are particularly keen to see examples that go above and beyond the national requirements, for example those set by the QAA.

Each application will be judged against four criteria and marked out of a total possible score of 100 points. The weighting for the judging criteria is indicated below.

1	Evidence of consistent delivery of high-quality practical employability-related outcomes that benefit business and the economy, as well as nature/and or people's connection with nature.	50 points
2	Provide evidence of involvement with external partners, local projects, and/or professionals to share learning and best practices that enhance the student's learning experience and support their professional development. Additionally, provide evidence of how you facilitate engagement between students and CIEEM.	20 points
3	Supporting the professional development of staff in the departmental/programme delivery team and summary/examples of subject specific CPD undertaken	15 points
4	Promotion of the professions of ecology and environmental management.	15 points

Eligibility



The programme must be in a discipline related to ecology or environmental management.

¹ HEA (2016) FRAMEWORK FOR Embedding Employability in Higher Education. See <https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/system/files/downloads/embedding-employability-in-he.pdf>

² QAA (2018) Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education: Guidance for UK Higher Education Providers. See https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaas/enhancement-and-development/enterprise-and-entrpreneurship-education-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=15f1f981_8



The nominator can be a CIEEM member or a non-CIEEM member.

How do I make a nomination?



Complete the Nomination Form addressing the four award criteria and outlining why your Programme should receive the Higher Education Programme of the Year Award (**maximum 1,000 words**).



Additional supporting information, for example programme/module descriptors, alumni and/or employer testimonials and details of authentic assessment tasks, must be **limited to a maximum of six individual pages** (with no more than three external links) and submitted as one single PDF document. Supporting videos should be no longer than 15 minutes.



Your entry must be supported by someone who has not worked directly on the programme and who is not an employee of the University/College. They need to provide a supporting statement (**500 words max.**) and they can be either: a non-member or a CIEEM member (of any grade).



Return your completed [nomination form](#) as a **word document** alongside your supporting information as a **single PDF document** and **three high quality photos** for use in the Awards presentation and booklet if shortlisted by **30th January 2025** to awards@cieem.net.

Postgraduate Student Project Award

Have you recently graduated from your Master's Degree Course and received a high mark for your final dissertation? If so, we would encourage you to put forward your project for further recognition. Being shortlisted will be a fantastic way to show future employers you have the capability to produce award winning work and there is the added bonus for the winner of a £250 cheque. We also welcome nominations from project supervisors who consider their student has completed an outstanding project.

What are the judges looking for?

The winning project will demonstrate excellence in planning, undertaking and reporting of a Master's-level project in a relevant aspect of ecology or environmental management. Projects will be assessed against the following six criteria:

1	Project is presented well with appropriate structure, use of citations, bibliography and appendices, with a high standard of writing (style, punctuation, spelling and grammar), and a clear abstract / summary.	10 points
2	Evidence of consulting appropriate (particularly primary peer-reviewed literature) sources, using findings to support facts and arguments and show how the subject is positioned within the wider literature. Clearly focused literature search showing an awareness of current understanding and debate within the ecological and environmental management context of the project.	15 points
3	Clear and appropriate hypotheses / research questions are presented with clear explanation and justification of methods chosen to test them, limitations identified and their implications discussed.	15 points
4	Evidence of an analytical / discriminating approach to the collection, evaluation and interpretation of data. Appropriate statistical analysis and manipulation / presentation of data, including effective use of figures and tables.	25 points
5	Evidence of critical evaluation with findings discussed fully and appropriately in the context of hypotheses, with limitations in methods and data evaluated. Evidence of understanding / impact of findings within wider context.	25 points
6	The project provides new evidence or information of relevance to ecology and environmental management in an applied context.	10 points

Eligibility



Nominees must have either completed their project whilst on a CIEEM-accredited degree programme or been a CIEEM Student member whilst undertaking their project and still be a member of the Chartered Institute at the time of nomination.



Entries require the support of the student and project supervisor. It can be initiated by either.



The project or dissertation must have been submitted for assessment in the 2023-2024 academic year, 2024 calendar year or equivalent if a different academic system is used.

How do I make a nomination?



Complete the Nomination Form ensuring the **Project Supervisor** has completed the relevant section, referencing the eight award criteria, outlining why the project should receive a CIEEM Postgraduate Student Project Award. **Maximum 500 words.**



Return your completed [nomination form](#) as a **word document** alongside your supporting information as a **single PDF document** and **three high quality photos** for use in the Awards presentation and booklet if shortlisted by **20th December 2024** to awards@cieem.net.