

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

2025

Recognising excellence, amplifying equality

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

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TrailblazHER™
Empowering Female Talent

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ABOUT

The TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards

The TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards aim to celebrate, honour, and elevate the outstanding achievements of women across all sectors, while recognising the vital role of allies who champion equity, inclusion, and empowerment. These awards shine a spotlight on those who break barriers, lead with impact, and inspire change, amplifying voices that drive progress and foster inclusive excellence in every field. Through these awards, we aim to elevate role models, foster inclusive leadership, and inspire future generations to lead with purpose, courage, and collaboration.

The inaugural awards are a call to action to recognise the invaluable contributions of women, allies and changemakers making a more equitable future for all. Celebrating trailblazers across 12 categories, nominations are welcomed from all genders and identities, backgrounds and experiences.

Nominations close on Wednesday 27th August 2025 and we look forward to welcoming you to the celebratory ceremony at TU Dublin's exquisite Concert Hall on Thursday 6th November 2025.

About TrailblazHER™

TrailblazHER™ is a vibrant and dynamic community of people, organisations and enterprises led by Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) who are striving to advance gender equality. Launched in early 2024, TrailblazHER™ empowers girls and women through development programmes, mentorship, scholarships and industry partnerships. TrailblazHER™ is an inclusive, free and sector agnostic initiative supported by a broad range of community and industry partners including Intel, ESB, Jones Engineering, Fidelity Investments, Deloitte, Workday, PwC and Enterprise Mobility.

To find out more please visit www.TUDublin.ie/TrailblazHER or connect on your preferred social media platform(s): [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [TikTok](#).

Award Categories

Celebrating the diversity of women and allies across all sectors twelve awards will be bestowed:

1. TrailblazHER™ Businesswoman Award
2. Technology TrailblazHER Award
3. Sustainability TrailblazHER Award
4. TrailblazHER™ Future Leaders Award
5. TrailblazHER™ Allyship Award
6. DEI TrailblazHER Award
7. TrailblazHER™ DEI Research and Development Award
8. TrailblazHER™ Community Hero Award
9. TU Dublin TrailblazHER™ Award
10. Trailblazing Returners Award
11. Trailblazing Alumna Award
12. TrailblazHER of the Year Award (Judge's Selection)

The details of each award including eligibility and evaluation criteria can be found on the Awards website or in Appendix 1 of this document. Please note, with the exception of the TrailblazHER of the Year Award, which is selected exclusively by the judging panel, all awards are open to both self and peer nominations and will close at 11.30pm (IST) on Wednesday 27th August 2025.

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JUDGING PROCESS

Judging Process

The Excellence Awards Committee is deeply committed to ensuring a fair, balanced, and rigorous judging process, recognising only the most outstanding entries as recipients of the Excellence Awards. Maintaining the integrity of this evaluation process is fundamental to the credibility of the Awards.

To uphold these standards, the Excellence Awards Committee has established an independent sub-committee dedicated to overseeing all aspects of judging, the Excellence Awards Adjudication Committee. This includes the development and endorsement of category-specific assessment criteria and rubrics, judges and judging processes. Each submission is reviewed by a carefully selected panel comprising seasoned professionals, academics, and subject matter experts. These judges adhere to a standardised adjudication framework designed to guarantee that all entries are evaluated in a consistent, impartial, objective, and thorough manner.

The framework includes the following key elements:

- The Excellence Awards Adjudication Committee is responsible for the development and maintenance of the awards judging process as well as for the selection and appointment of awards judges, with oversight from the Excellence Awards Committee.
- An independent panel of judges has been secured with a dedicated platform for secure and confidential interactions with Judges regarding award entries, rubrics, scoring, and results.
- Judges are bound by a strict confidentiality agreement and are not permitted to engage in any communication, conversation, or correspondence with any third parties prior to, during, nor following the Awards Ceremony pertaining to entrants, the judging process, nor their awards decisions. The only exception to this is where a Judge needs to engage with another and/or where the Excellence Awards Adjudication Committee may need to engage with a Judge on any matter requiring a Committee intervention.
- Judges are assigned to specific categories, and they assess category entries based on the respective category rubrics.
- Judges shall be excused from adjudicating a particular award entry and/or category when, for example, a Judge or their own organisation submits an entry and/or where a Judge or the Excellence Awards Adjudication Committee otherwise deem there is a potential conflict of interest. Judges are required to declare all perceived or realised conflicts of interest prior to joining the panel and at any time of their service.
- Should a Judge have any query or concern about a particular entrant or process, they shall raise this immediately with the Excellence Awards Adjudication Committee who will address it directly where possible and appropriate to do so.
- After the closing date for submissions, the Excellence Awards Adjudication Committee complete an eligibility check on all applications before shortlisting. Shortlisted applications are then sent using password encrypted transfer platforms to the assigned category Judges.
- Final stage judging will take place in person with scores collected and collated by the Excellence Awards Adjudication Team. An independent verifier will be present at all judging sessions.

- Judges' scores are double-checked and verified by the Judging Coordinator who is administrative lead of the Excellence Awards Adjudication Team.
- The highest scored entrant in each category is deemed the Award winner for that category.
- Judges' decisions are final, and no communication, conversation, nor correspondence of any kind should be entered into in relation to decisions reached. Feedback will only be provided for shortlisted candidates upon request.
- Shortlisted nominees will be contacted upon receipt of the Judges' decisions and published on the Excellence Awards website.
- Entry submissions and award winner details are securely stored by the Excellence Awards Adjudication Team.
- The award winners are announced at the Awards Ceremony on 6th November.

Data Consent and Protection

- The Excellence Awards Committee recognises and respects the potentially sensitive nature of data submitted by entrants, and confirms that submissions are not disclosed, discussed, reproduced, nor shared with any third parties. Furthermore, Judges are not permitted to discuss same with any other third parties as part of the judging process.
- The names of companies, organisations or individuals that have not been shortlisted for an Award will not be published and any information from entries will not be reproduced or shared unless prior permission is given.
- By submitting a nomination entrants agree to being contacted by TrailblazHER™ at TU Dublin regarding their application, the awards and any relevant post-event communications.

Queries, Concerns and Grievances

- Any queries should be directed to TrailblazHERExcellenceAwards@gmail.com. Only shortlisted entries will receive further communications.
- In the event of a perceived grievance, individuals must contact the Excellence Awards Committee and submit a Grievance Report via email within 10 working days of the perceived grievance at TrailblazHERExcellenceAwards@gmail.com.
- The grievance report will be reviewed by the Excellence Awards Committee who will respond within 10 working days via email with respect to appropriate actions.
- As we continuously strive to learn and improve, all feedback is welcomed. Please share any feedback directly at TrailblazHERExcellenceAwards@gmail.com.

ELIGIBILITY AND
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility and Entry Requirements

Please review the following entry requirements and eligibility criteria for the specific award (see table below) before starting your application. Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be reviewed.

- Award entrants must meet all eligibility requirements for each category as detailed on the Excellence Awards Website. Please review the following eligibility criteria before starting your application. Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be reviewed.
- Award entrants must submit their nomination using the Nomination Forms provided for each respective category through the Nomination Portal. If you require alternative formats, please contact TrailblazHERExcellenceAwards@gmail.com.
- There is no limit to the number of nominations or categories an individual or organisation can enter. A separate application form must be completed for each nominee for each category. Joint applications will not be accepted.
- Entries are permitted from individuals and organisations from across the island of Ireland.
- Entries for any individual under the age of 18 must have written permission from a guardian.
- All applications will close at 11.30pm Irish Standard Time (IST) on Wednesday 27th August 2025. Late entries will not be accepted.

Award:	Eligibility Criteria:	Evaluation Criteria:
TrailblazHER™ Businesswoman Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women-led Business: The business must be founded or co-founded by a woman who holds a significant leadership role. • Business Size: The business should employ up to ten individuals. • Demonstrated growth and innovation in the business: The business should show clear signs of growth, such as increased revenue, customer base, or market presence, and should incorporate innovative practices or products. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Business Growth and Development: Evidence of business expansion, such as increased revenue, market reach, or team size. 2. Innovation and Creativity: Introduction of new ideas, products, services, or approaches that improve business outcomes. 3. Impact on the Community and Industry: Positive contributions to the wider community or industry. 4. Sustainability and Responsible Practices: Adoption of environmentally friendly, ethical, or socially responsible business practices.
Technology TrailblazHER Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominees must identify as a woman and work professionally in a technology, science or engineering-related field. • Nominees must demonstrate a track record of technological innovation, either through new products, research breakthroughs, digital transformation, or the application of technology in novel ways. • Open to early-career professionals as well as seasoned experts who meet the above criteria. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technological Innovation and Advancements: The use or development of new technologies, tools, or creative solutions to address challenges or improve outcomes. 2. Leadership and Influence: Demonstrated leadership in teams, projects, or organisations, and influence on others or the direction of technology within their field. 3. Industry and Societal Impact: Positive results from their work, whether through business success, industry recognition, or social impact such as improving access, sustainability, or equity.

Award:	Eligibility Criteria:	Evaluation Criteria:
Sustainability TrailblazHER Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to individuals who identify as women and are actively working in the field of sustainability. • Nominees must have demonstrated commitment and contribution to sustainable development, climate action, circular economy, biodiversity, social sustainability, or related areas. • Nominees have a proven track record of implementing or leading initiatives with measurable sustainability outcomes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovation: Introduction of novel approaches, models, or technologies that address sustainability challenges in new or more effective ways. 2. Leadership: Evidence of vision, influence, and the ability to inspire and mobilise others toward sustainable goals. 3. Impact: Tangible environmental, social, or economic benefits resulting from the nominee's work, including scalability or replicability. 4. Legacy and Reach: Enduring contribution to the sustainability field and potential to influence future generations or broader systems change.
TrailblazHER™ Community Hero Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to individuals of any gender or identity. • Must demonstrate active community engagement and leadership in creating or supporting social impact initiatives. • Applications from individuals not currently engaged in paid employment are particularly welcomed. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Social Impact and Community Engagement: Depth and reach of engagement with the community. 2. Leadership and Advocacy: Role in mobilising change or advocating for a cause. 3. Sustainability and Long-term Impact: The lasting benefits and potential replicability of the nominee's work.

Award:	Eligibility Criteria:	Evaluation Criteria:
TrailblazHER™ Allyship Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to individuals of any gender who are actively mentoring or sponsoring women. • Must demonstrate a sustained commitment to the advancement of women through mentorship, sponsorship, or allyship. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Effectiveness of Mentorship and Sponsorship: Depth, quality, and consistency of the nominee's efforts. 2. Leadership and Advocacy: Their role in advocating for gender equity and creating systemic change. 3. Impact: Evidence of personal or professional growth for others and sustained outcomes.
DEI TrailblazHER Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to individuals of any identity, as well as formal initiatives or teams actively engaged in DEI work. • The nominee must demonstrate a track record of meaningful DEI outcomes, such as improved access, increased representation, inclusive policy change, training, or community engagement. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovation in DEI Practices: Novel or creative approaches, tools and collaborations to inclusion, equity, or accessibility. 2. Leadership in DEI Advocacy: Active championing of inclusive values and impact influencing and inspiring others. 3. Impact: Evidence of reach, scale and sustainability with clear, measurable changes in culture, policies, representation, engagement, or wellbeing.

Award:	Eligibility Criteria:	Evaluation Criteria:
TU Dublin TrailblazHER Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to individuals who identify as a woman. • Nominees must be an enrolled student at TU Dublin during the year 2025. This includes full-time and part-time students undertaking access programmes, apprenticeships, undergraduate or postgraduate courses. • Nominees must demonstrate leadership and positive impact on campus, in the community, or in their field of study. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leadership Through Initiative and Innovation: Demonstratable leadership to create positive change, willingness to learn and engage new opportunities and inspiring others to participate or think differently. 2. Contribution to the University Community: Evidence of helping to foster an inclusive, vibrant, and supportive campus culture through their actions and involvement. Whether through participation or leadership societies, peer mentoring, student wellbeing, or inclusion initiatives, the individual helps to strengthen community ties and uplifts underrepresented or vulnerable groups. 3. Social Impact and Civic Engagement: Commitment to making a difference beyond the university through hands-on engagement with social, environmental, or cultural causes including volunteerism, advocacy, or service projects that benefit others.

Award:	Eligibility Criteria:	Evaluation Criteria:
TrailblazHER™ Future Leaders Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to individuals who identify as a woman. • Nominees must be within the first five years of their career after graduation. • Applications are open to all career pathways (e.g., academia, research, education, apprenticeships, sole traders, entrepreneurs, employees). • Show strong potential as a future leader through initiative, integrity, resilience, and a drive to lead or influence change. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emerging Leadership: Demonstratable initiative, ambition, and potential to lead or innovate in their area of interest or work and shows courage, resilience, or a willingness to challenge the status quo. 2. Inspiration to Others: Serves as a positive role model or motivator to peers, colleagues, or younger students, promoting inclusion, equity, or collaboration in their work or community. 3. Impact and Drive: Visible contribution, big or small, that shows promise for continued growth and influence, and a clear commitment to a future of meaningful contribution.

Award:	Eligibility Criteria:	Evaluation Criteria:
Trailblazing Alumna Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to all individuals who identify as a woman and are a graduate (alumna) of the university (apprenticeship, undergraduate or postgraduate from TU Dublin, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Institute of Technology Tallaght or Dublin Institute of Technology). • Nominees must have demonstrated significant career achievements, leadership, or societal impact. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Career Achievements and Leadership: Demonstratable excellence and leadership, driving innovation, mentoring others, and achieving meaningful impact in their field. 2. Contribution to the Industry and Society: Actively advances their industry or community through thought leadership, collaboration, and initiatives that promote positive societal change. 3. Impact on the University Community: Demonstrates lasting commitment to the university through mentorship, engagement, and efforts that strengthen connection and opportunity.

Trailblazing Returners Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to all individuals who identify as a woman. • Nominees must have taken a break in employment and returned to work within the last 5 years. • Nominees must have demonstrated professional impact since returning, such as innovation, leadership, collaboration, or mentoring others. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resilience and Adaptability: Overcoming barriers to re-entry and demonstrating commitment to growth with flexibility in learning, adapting, or shifting focus. 2. Impact Since Return: Making a positive difference within their organisation or industry by delivering results, innovation, or leadership since their return. 3. Inspiration and Mentorship: Serving as a role model for other returners or underrepresented professionals by supporting inclusion or helping others navigate transitions.
TrailblazHER™ DEI Research and Development Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open to all individuals, teams, initiatives and organisations performing research and development in the DEI space. • Nominees must have demonstratable delivery of research, practices and policies and impacts. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovation in DEI Research and Innovation: Demonstrates original, creative, or boundary-pushing research that advances new thinking in diversity, equity, and inclusion. 2. Contribution To Practices: Contributions to research supported practices, data-driven improvements in DEI-related policies, programmes, or actions. 3. Impact To Organisations and Community: Evidence of tangible impacts of research and development within organisations or communities, including influence, uptake, or lasting change.

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NOMINATION PROCESS

Nomination Process

Key Dates

Please find key dates below. Please note dates are subject to change without notice at the discretion of the Excellence Awards Committee. Any changes to deadlines will be directly communicated with all entrants.

Thursday 17 th July 2025	Award Nominations Open
Wednesday 27 th August 2025	Award Nominations Close
Wednesday 3 rd September 2025	Award Adjudication
Wednesday 1 st October 2025	Finalists Announced
Thursday 6 th November 2025	Awards Ceremony

Completing Your Nomination

Self-expression and Identity

The pronouns they/them/theirs are used throughout this application process as gender-neutral terms to refer to all individuals. This usage is intended to be inclusive of all people, regardless of gender identity or personal pronouns. It is not exclusive to those who identify as non-binary but serves as an inclusive way to refer to anyone.

Completing the Application Form

- All responses must remain within the specified word limits. Content exceeding the limit will not be reviewed.
- The form must be completed in one sitting. You will not be able to save your progress and return later.
- A copy of your completed application can be saved upon submission for your records.
- We strongly recommend reviewing the application form in advance to prepare your responses.
- Do not include links to external pages except where requested. Links to alternative platforms or documents will not be reviewed.
- Applications for all categories close at 11.30pm Irish Standard Time (IST) on Wednesday 27th August 2025.

Application Support

Please find below general guidelines to support your application:

- **Be Clear and Specific:** Provide clear examples to illustrate achievements. Vague statements are less impactful than specific, measurable outcomes.
- **Focus on Impact:** Highlight the difference the nominee(s) has made. Describe the impact on individuals, communities, organisations, or your field.
- **Comply with Word Counts:** Please note word limits for questions. Any responses longer than the permitted word count will not be reviewed.
- **Complete the Application Fully:** Ensure each section of the form is completed thoroughly.
- **Avoid Jargon:** Use language that is accessible to a broad audience. Explain any technical terms or acronyms.

- Be Honest and Authentic: Showcase your/your nominee's genuine contribution. Modesty is good, but don't undersell achievements.
- Use Quantifiable Results Where Possible: Numbers, percentages, and comparisons can strengthen your case.
- Tailor Your Responses: Make sure your answers align with the purpose of the award. Show how the nominee's activities meet the award criteria.
- Proofread Your Application and Seek Feedback before Submitting: If possible, ask someone else to review your application for clarity and completeness.

If you have any questions or require assistance with the application process, please contact TrailblazHERExcellenceAwards@gmail.com.

APPENDIX 1
APPLICATION FORMS

Appendix 1 – Application Forms

TrailblazHER™ Businesswoman Award

The TrailblazHER™ Businesswoman Award recognises a women-led business owner employing up to ten persons in their start-up or SME. This award celebrates leadership, innovation and the entrepreneurial impact of women entrepreneurs across the island of Ireland.

Eligibility Criteria:

Please review the following eligibility criteria before starting your application. Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be reviewed.

- **Women-led Business:** The business must be founded or co-founded by a woman who holds a significant leadership role.
- **Business Size:** The business should employ up to ten individuals.
- **Demonstrated growth and innovation in the business:** The business should show clear signs of growth, such as increased revenue, customer base, or market presence, and should incorporate innovative practices or products.

Nomination Process:

Self-nomination: Women are strongly encouraged to put themselves forward and showcase their achievements.

Peer nomination: Colleagues, mentors, allies, team members, clients, or collaborators can nominate a deserving woman who has inspired or influenced them through their leadership and experience.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. **Business Growth and Development:** Evidence of business expansion, such as increased revenue, market reach, or team size.
2. **Innovation and Creativity:** Introduction of new ideas, products, services, or approaches that improve business outcomes.
3. **Impact on the Community and Industry:** Positive contributions to the wider community or industry.
4. **Sustainability and Responsible Practices:** Adoption of environmentally friendly, ethical, or socially responsible business practices.

Application Form:

Nomination Profile(s)

1. Are you nominating yourself or a peer?
 - Self-nomination
 - Peer-nomination
2. Please confirm your name and email.
3. If nominating a peer, please confirm you have permission to share their personal contact information for the purposes of the application.
 - Yes, I confirm
 - No, I do not confirm
4. Please describe your relationship to the nominee.
5. Please confirm the nominee's full name including any titles.
6. Please confirm the nominee's pronouns if known.
7. Please provide an email address for the nominee.
8. Please provide a phone number for the nominee.
9. Please confirm the name of the nominee's business.

10. Please provide the business website. If not available at the time of submission, please confirm this.
11. Please provide links to the business social media platforms. If not available at the time of submission, please confirm this.
12. How did you hear about TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards? Please select all that apply.
 - TrailblazHER™ Website
 - TU Dublin Staff
 - LinkedIn
 - Facebook
 - Event/Meeting
 - TU Dublin Student
 - Email
 - Instagram
 - Personal Invitation
 - Word of Mouth

Business Overview

13. Please confirm the year the business was founded.
14. Please confirm the number of employees excluding the nominee.
15. Please describe the mission and core activities of the business (max 250 words).
16. Please outline the primary customers or markets of the business. Please highlight local, national, international markets as appropriate (max 250 words).

Business Growth and Sustainability

17. Describe how the business has grown in the past 1-3 years. Include data such as revenue growth, market reach, customer base expansion where available (max 500 words).
18. What sustainability practices has the business adopted and why? (e.g., eco-friendly production, ethical sourcing, waste reduction, diversity and inclusion, universal design etc.) (max 500 words).

Innovation and Creativity

19. What new or improved products/services has the nominee introduced that demonstrates innovation? (max 500 words).
20. What creative or unique marketing strategies has the nominee implemented? (max 500 words).
21. How has the nominee improved operational efficiency in their business? (e.g., automation, digital tools, process improvements) (max 500 words).

Impact

22. How has the nominee's business contributed to their local community e.g., events, donations, volunteering? (max 500 words).
23. Has the nominee contributed to their industry beyond business operations e.g., speaking, mentoring, publishing? If yes, please describe. (max 500 words).
24. How many jobs has the business created since inception?
25. In what ways has the business empowered women or supported diversity and inclusion (if applicable)? (max 500 words).

Supporting Statements

26. Why are you nominating this businesswoman for this award? (max 250 words).
27. Please list any related awards, recognition or honorary roles the nominee has received or undertaken.
28. Is there anything else you would like to add in support of the application? (max 250 words).

Technology TrailblazHER Award

Powered by Intel, this award seeks to honour an exceptional woman who has made outstanding contributions in the field of technology, spanning areas such as software development, engineering, data science, digital innovation, or scientific research. The recipient will be a leader who not only advances technological innovation through their work but also acts as a role model and catalyst for change, breaking barriers, inspiring others, and helping shape the future of technology, science and/or engineering.

Eligibility Criteria:

Please review the following eligibility criteria before starting your application. Applications that do not meet these requirements will not be reviewed.

- Nominees must identify as a woman and work professionally in a technology, science or engineering-related field.
- Nominees must demonstrate a track record of technological innovation, either through new products, research breakthroughs, digital transformation, or the application of technology in novel ways.
- Open to early-career professionals as well as seasoned experts who meet the above criteria.

Nomination Process:

- Self-nomination: Women in tech are encouraged to put themselves forward and showcase their achievements.
- Peer nomination: Colleagues, managers, team members, clients, or collaborators can nominate a deserving woman who has inspired or influenced them through their tech leadership.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Technological Innovation and Advancements: The use or development of new technologies, tools, or creative solutions to address challenges or improve outcomes.
2. Leadership and Influence: Demonstrated leadership in teams, projects, or organisations, and influence on others or the direction of technology within their field.
3. Industry and Societal Impact: Positive results from their work, whether through business success, industry recognition, or social impact such as improving access, sustainability, or equity.

Application Form:

Nominator(s) Profile

1. Are you nominating yourself or a peer?
 - Self-nomination
 - Peer-nomination
2. Please confirm your name and email.
3. If nominating a peer, please confirm you have permission to share their personal contact information for the purposes of the application.
 - Yes, I confirm
 - No, I do not confirm
4. Please describe your relationship to the nominee.
5. Please confirm the nominee's full name including any titles.
6. Please confirm the nominee's pronouns if known.
7. Please provide an email address for the nominee.
8. Please provide a phone number for the nominee.

9. Please confirm the nominee's position, title and organisation.
10. Please provide links to the nominee's digital profiles e.g. website, LinkedIn profile.
11. Please confirm the industry or sector the nominee operates within. Please select all that apply.
 - Software Development
 - Engineering
 - Scientific Research
 - Digital Innovation
12. How did you hear about TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards? Please select all that apply.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TrailblazHER™ Website• TU Dublin Staff• LinkedIn• Facebook• Event/Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TU Dublin Student• Email• Instagram• Personal Invitation• Word of Mouth
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Eligibility and Experience

13. Briefly describe the nominee's role and responsibilities in their current position (max 200 words).
14. Please summarise the nominee's career journey to date (max 250 words).

Technological Innovation and Advancements

15. Please describe how the nominee has used or developed new technologies, tools, or creative solutions to solve challenges or improve outcomes in their work (max 300 words).

Leadership and Influence

16. How has the nominee demonstrated leadership within their team, organisation, or industry? (max 300 words).

Industry and Societal Impact

17. What impact has the nominee's work had on their industry or society more broadly? You may include business growth, recognition, increased access or inclusion, environmental outcomes, or other positive effects (max 300 words).

Supporting Statements

18. Why are you nominating the nominee for this award? (max 250 words).
19. Please list any related awards, recognition or honorary roles the nominee has received or undertaken.
20. Is there anything else you would like to add in support of the application? (max 250 words).

Sustainability TrailblazHER Award

This award recognises and celebrates a woman who has made outstanding and measurable contributions to sustainability, through leadership, innovation, and lasting impact. Proudly sponsored by ESB, the award honours those who are driving meaningful change in environmental, social, or economic sustainability, whether in industry, academia, community initiatives, or public service.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to individuals who identify as women and are actively working in the field of sustainability.
- Nominees must have demonstrated commitment and contribution to sustainable development, climate action, circular economy, biodiversity, social sustainability, or related areas.
- Nominees have a proven track record of implementing or leading initiatives with measurable sustainability outcomes.

Nomination Process:

- Self-nomination: Women across sustainability are encouraged to put themselves forward and showcase their achievements.
- Peer nomination: Colleagues, managers, team members, clients, or collaborators can nominate a deserving woman who has inspired or influenced them through their leadership and experience.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Innovation: Introduction of novel approaches, models, or technologies that address sustainability challenges in new or more effective ways.
2. Leadership: Evidence of vision, influence, and the ability to inspire and mobilise others toward sustainable goals.
3. Impact: Tangible environmental, social, or economic benefits resulting from the nominee's work, including scalability or replicability.
4. Legacy and Reach: Enduring contribution to the sustainability field and potential to influence future generations or broader systems change.

Application Form:

Nominator(s) Profile

1. Are you nominating yourself or a peer?
 - Self-nomination
 - Peer-nomination
2. If nominating a peer, please confirm you have permission to share their personal contact information for the purposes of the application.
 - Yes, I confirm
 - No, I do not confirm
3. Please describe your relationship to the nominee.
4. Please confirm the nominee's full name including any titles.
5. Please confirm the nominee's pronouns if known.
6. Please provide an email address for the nominee.
7. Please provide a phone number for the nominee.
8. Please confirm the nominee's position, title and organisation.
9. Please provide links to the nominee's digital profiles e.g. website, LinkedIn profile.
10. Please confirm the industry or sector the nominee operates within. Please select all that apply.
 - Industry

- Academia
 - Community
 - Public Service
11. Please provide a short biography of the nominee, including background, career journey, and current role (max 250 words).
12. How did you hear about TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards? Please select all that apply.
- TrailblazHER™ Website
 - TU Dublin Staff
 - LinkedIn
 - Facebook
 - Event/Meeting
 - TU Dublin Student
 - Email
 - Instagram
 - Personal Invitation
 - Word of Mouth

Innovation

13. Detail any innovative approaches, technologies, or models introduced by the nominee. What problem are they addressing and how is the solution new or transformative? (max 200 words).

Leadership

14. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated leadership in sustainability. How have they inspired, mobilised, or influenced others? (max 200 words).

Impact

15. Please indicate the area(s) of sustainability impact which the nominee's efforts contribute to. Please select all that apply.
- Climate Action
 - Circular Economy
 - Biodiversity & Nature Conservation
 - Social Sustainability & Inclusion
 - Sustainable Business/Policy
16. What measurable outcomes have resulted from the nominee's work? (e.g., emissions reduced, waste diverted, people impacted, biodiversity restored, policies influenced, etc.) (max 200 words).

Legacy and Reach

17. How is the nominee's work contributing to long-term change? Can their model or approach be replicated or scaled? What lasting impact do you anticipate? (max 250 words).

Supporting Statements

18. Why are you nominating the nominee for this award? (max 250 words).
19. Please list any related awards, recognition or honorary roles the nominee has received or undertaken.
20. Is there anything else you would like to add in support of the application? (max 250 words).

TrailblazHER™ Community Hero Award

Supported by Jones Engineering, this award recognises and honours individuals who have made a significant and lasting social impact, either through their work or efforts beyond the workplace or in the community. It celebrates those who lead with compassion, commitment, and courage, those who champion causes, uplift communities, and inspire others to take meaningful action. Nominees may come from any sector, corporate, nonprofit, academic, public service, or grassroots and can be recognised for initiatives addressing issues such as inequality, education, mental health, youth empowerment, homelessness, gender equity, migrant rights, or other pressing social challenges.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to individuals of any gender or identity.
- Must demonstrate active community engagement and leadership in creating or supporting social impact initiatives.
- Applications from individuals not currently engaged in paid employment are particularly welcomed.

Nomination Process:

- Self-nomination: Individuals are encouraged to put themselves forward and showcase their achievements.
- Peer nomination: Colleagues, managers, team members, clients, or collaborators can nominate a deserving individual who has inspired or influenced them through their leadership and experience.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Social Impact and Community Engagement: Depth and reach of engagement with the community.
2. Leadership and Advocacy: Role in mobilising change or advocating for a cause.
3. Sustainability and Long-term Impact: The lasting benefits and potential replicability of the nominee's work.

Application Form:

Nominator(s) Profile

1. Are you nominating yourself or a peer?
 - Self-nomination
 - Peer-nomination
2. Please confirm your name and email.
3. If nominating a peer, please confirm you have permission to share their personal contact information for the purposes of the application.
 - Yes, I confirm
 - No, I do not confirm
4. Please describe your relationship to the nominee.
5. Please confirm the nominee's full name including any titles.
6. Please provide an email address for the nominee.
7. Please confirm the nominee's pronouns if known.
8. Please provide a phone number for the nominee.
9. Please confirm the nominee's position, title and organisation if applicable.
10. Please provide links to the nominee's digital profiles e.g. website, LinkedIn profile.
11. Please confirm the industry or sector the nominee operates within. Please select all that apply.
 - Industry
 - Academia

- Community
- Public Service

12. Please provide a short biography of the nominee including professional, personal or community experience(s) (max 250 words).

13. How did you hear about TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards? Please select all that apply.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| • TrailblazHER™ Website | • TU Dublin Student |
| • TU Dublin Staff | • Email |
| • LinkedIn | • Instagram |
| • Facebook | • Personal Invitation |
| • Event/Meeting | • Word of Mouth |

Social Impact and Community Engagement

14. Please indicate the area(s) of societal impact the nominee contributes to. Please select all that apply.

- Mental Health
- Health and Wellbeing
- Education and Youth Empowerment
- Social Justice and Advocacy
- Gender Equality
- Homelessness and Housing
- Migration and Inclusion

15. How has the nominee engaged with their community, and what positive changes have resulted from their efforts? (max 250 words).

Leadership and Advocacy

16. In what ways has the nominated demonstrated leadership or advocated for a cause or issue? (max 250 words).

Sustainability and Legacy

17. What makes the nominee's work or initiative sustainable or capable of creating lasting change? Are the initiatives self-sustaining, scalable, or replicable? (max 250 words).

Supporting Statements

18. Why are you nominating the nominee for this award? (max 250 words).

19. Please list any related awards, recognition or honorary roles the nominee received or undertaken.

20. Is there anything else you would like to add in support of the application? (max 250 words).

TrailblazHER™ Allyship Award

This award recognises an individual who has gone above and beyond in mentoring, sponsoring, and advocating for women, helping them thrive in their careers, education, or personal development. It celebrates active and intentional allyship, through guidance, advocacy, and support that empowers women to reach their full potential. The nominee may be of any gender and can work in any field or industry. This award honours those who open doors for women, invest time and energy in their growth, and act as consistent allies in creating more inclusive and equitable spaces.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to individuals of any gender who are actively mentoring or sponsoring women.
- Must demonstrate a sustained commitment to the advancement of women through mentorship, sponsorship, or allyship.

Nomination Process:

- Self-nomination: All individuals are encouraged to put themselves forward.
- Peer nomination: Colleagues, managers, team members, clients, or collaborators can nominate a deserving individual who has inspired or influenced them through their leadership and experience.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Effectiveness of Mentorship and Sponsorship: Depth, quality, and consistency of the nominee's efforts.
2. Leadership and Advocacy: Their role in advocating for gender equity and creating systemic change.
3. Impact: Evidence of personal or professional growth for others and sustained outcomes.

Application Form:

Nominator(s) Profile

1. Are you nominating yourself or a peer?
 - Self-nomination
 - Peer-nomination
2. If nominating a peer, please confirm you have permission to share their personal contact information for the purposes of the application.
 - Yes, I confirm
 - No, I do not confirm
3. Please describe your relationship to the nominee.
4. Please confirm the nominee's full name including any titles.
5. Please confirm the nominee's pronouns if known.
6. Please provide an email address for the nominee.
7. Please provide a phone number for the nominee.
8. Please confirm the nominee's position, title and organisation if applicable.
9. Please provide links to the nominee's digital profiles e.g. business website, LinkedIn profile
10. Please confirm the industry or sector the nominee operates within. Please select all that apply.
 - Industry
 - Academia
 - Community
 - Public Service
11. Please provide a short biography of the nominee including professional, personal or community experience(s) (max 250 words).
12. How did you hear about TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards? Please select as many as required.

- TrailblazHER™ Website
- TU Dublin Staff
- LinkedIn
- Facebook
- Event/Meeting
- TU Dublin Student
- Email
- Instagram
- Personal Invitation
- Word of Mouth

Effective Mentorship and/or Sponsorship

13. Describe how the nominee mentors or sponsors women. Include the context (e.g., workplace programme, personal commitment, community involvement), frequency of engagement, and specific methods used (max 250 words).

Leadership and Advocacy

14. In what ways has the nominee demonstrated leadership or advocated for gender equity in their community, organisation or sector? (max 250 words).

Impact

15. What impact has the nominee's mentorship, sponsorship or advocacy had on individuals? Please give as many specific examples as possible (max 250 words).

Sustainability and Legacy

16. What makes the mentee's work or initiative sustainable or capable of creating lasting change? Are the initiatives self-sustaining, scalable, or replicable? (max 250 words).

Supporting Statements

17. Why are you nominating the nominee for this award? (max 250 words).
18. Please list any related awards, recognition or honorary roles the nominee has received or undertaken.
19. Is there anything else you would like to add in support of the application? (max 250 words)

DEI TrailblazHER Award

This award honours an individual or initiative that is making a transformative impact in the areas of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Proudly powered by Fidelity Investments, the award celebrates those who go beyond compliance to drive meaningful, systemic change, creating cultures where differences are respected, equity is embedded, and all individuals have the opportunity to thrive. Nominees may lead or contribute to DEI work in any setting, corporate, nonprofit, public service, academia, community, or grassroots. Their work may focus on but is not limited to:

- Racial or ethnic inclusion
- Gender equity
- LGBTQ+ inclusion
- Disability rights and accessibility
- Socioeconomic equity
- Neurodiversity and age inclusion
- Intersectional DEI approaches
- Alternative pathway recognition including return to work supports.

This award seeks to highlight efforts that are intentional, measurable, inclusive, and forward-thinking.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to individuals of any identity, as well as formal initiatives or teams actively engaged in DEI work.
- The nominee(s) must demonstrate a track record of meaningful DEI outcomes, such as improved access, increased representation, inclusive policy change, training, or community engagement.

Nomination Process:

- Self-nomination: All individuals are encouraged to put themselves forward.
- Peer nomination: Colleagues, managers, team members, clients, and collaborators can nominate a deserving individual or team who has inspired or influenced them through their leadership and efforts.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Innovation in DEI Practices: Novel or creative approaches, tools and collaborations to inclusion, equity, or accessibility.
2. Leadership in DEI Advocacy: Active championing of inclusive values and impact influencing and inspiring others.
3. Impact: Evidence of reach, scale and sustainability with clear, measurable changes in culture, policies, representation, engagement, or wellbeing.

Application Form:

Nominator(s) Profile

1. Are you nominating yourself or a peer?

- Self-nomination
 - Peer-nomination
2. Please confirm your name and email.
 3. If nominating a peer/team/project/initiative, please confirm you have permission to share personal contact information for the purposes of the application.
 - Yes, I confirm
 - No, I do not confirm
 4. Please describe your relationship to the nominee(s)/team.
 5. Please confirm the nominee's full name including any titles. If nominating an initiative/project, please provide the full name of the lead contact.
 6. Please confirm the nominee's/lead contact's pronouns if known.
 7. Please provide an email address for the nominee(s)/lead contact.
 8. Please provide a phone number for the nominee(s)/lead contact.
 9. Please confirm the nominee's/lead contact's position, title and organisation.
 10. Please provide links to the nominee's digital profiles e.g. website, LinkedIn profile. If nominating an initiative/project, please provide all relevant links to digital profiles.
 11. Please confirm the industry or sector the nominee or initiative/project operates within. Please select all that apply.
 - Industry
 - Academia
 - Community
 - Public Service
 12. Please provide a short biography of the nominee including professional, personal or community experience(s). If nominating an initiative/project please give a short summary of the initiative/project including aims, size of the team and impacts to date (max 250 words).
 13. How did you hear about TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards? Please select as many as required.
 - TrailblazHER™ Website
 - TU Dublin Staff
 - LinkedIn
 - Facebook
 - Event/Meeting
 - TU Dublin Student
 - Email
 - Instagram
 - Personal Invitation
 - Word of Mouth

Innovation in DEI Practices

14. Describe a specific DEI initiative or practice that the nominee or their team has implemented that reflects a novel or creative approach to inclusion, equity, or accessibility. What made it innovative, and how did the nominee or their team develop or adapt new tools, partnerships, or methods to drive its success? (max 300 words).

Leadership and Advocacy

15. How has the nominee personally demonstrated leadership in championing inclusive values within their organisation or community? Share an example where they influenced others, mobilised support, or led meaningful change in attitudes or behaviours around DEI (max 300 words).

Impact

16. In which focus area(s) does the nominee's work have impact? Please select all that apply.
 - Racial and Ethnic Inclusion
 - Gender Equity
 - LGBTQI+ Inclusion
 - Disability Inclusion and Accessibility
 - Neurodiversity

- Socioeconomic Equity
 - Age Inclusion and Accessibility
17. What measurable outcomes have resulted from the nominee's DEI efforts? Describe specific changes in culture, policies, representation, or engagement that can be attributed to the nominee's work. Where possible, include data or testimonials to illustrate the reach, sustainability, or systemic nature of the impact(s) (max 500 words).

Supporting Statements

18. Why are you nominating the nominee(s) for this award? (max 250 words).
19. Please list any related awards, recognition or honorary roles the nominee/project/initiative has received or undertaken.
20. Is there anything else you would like to add in support of the application? (max 250 words).

TrailblazHER™ Future Leaders Award

Powered by Deloitte, the TrailblazHER™ Future Leaders Award recognises a woman, within the first five years of their career after graduation, who is demonstrating exceptional potential as a future leader in their field. This award celebrates emerging talent, vision, and leadership-in-the-making. It is intended to spotlight women who are not only excelling early in their careers, studies, or apprenticeships, but who are also lifting others as they rise and showing a commitment to equity, innovation, and positive impact.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to individuals who identify as a woman.
- Nominees must be within the first five years of their career after graduation.
- Applications are open to all career pathways (e.g., academia, research, education, apprenticeships, sole traders, entrepreneurs, employees).
- Show strong potential as a future leader through initiative, integrity, resilience, and a drive to lead or influence change.

Nomination Process:

- Self-nomination: All individuals are encouraged to put themselves forward.
- Peer nomination: Colleagues, managers, team members, clients, or collaborators can nominate a deserving woman who has inspired or influenced them through their leadership and efforts.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Emerging Leadership: Demonstratable initiative, ambition, and potential to lead or innovate in their area of interest or work and shows courage, resilience, or a willingness to challenge the status quo.
2. Inspiration to Others: Serves as a positive role model or motivator to peers, colleagues, or younger students, promoting inclusion, equity, or collaboration in their work or community.
3. Impact and Drive: Visible contribution, big or small, that shows promise for continued growth and influence, and a clear commitment to a future of meaningful contribution.

Application Form:

Nominator(s) Profile

1. Are you nominating yourself or a peer?
 - Self-nomination
 - Peer-nomination
2. If nominating a peer, please confirm you have permission to share personal contact information for the purposes of the application.
 - Yes, I confirm
 - No, I do not confirm
3. Please describe your relationship to the nominee.
4. Please confirm the nominee's full name including any titles.
5. Please confirm the nominee's pronouns if known.
6. Please provide an email address for the nominee.
7. Please provide a phone number for the nominee.
8. Please confirm the nominee's position, title and organisation where applicable (e.g., Apprentice Carpenter, Civil Engineering Student, Project Coordinator, Trainee Auditor). If a student, please confirm their school or institution and programme of study.
9. Please provide links to the nominee's digital profiles e.g. website, LinkedIn profile.
10. Please confirm the industry or sector the nominee operates within. Please select all that apply.

- Industry
- Academia
- Community
- Public Service

11. Please provide a short biography of the nominee including professional, personal or community experience(s) (max 250 words).
12. How did you hear about TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards? Please select as many as required.
 - TrailblazHER™ Website
 - TU Dublin Staff
 - LinkedIn
 - Facebook
 - Event/Meeting
 - TU Dublin Student
 - Email
 - Instagram
 - Personal Invitation
 - Word of Mouth

Emerging Leadership

13. How has the nominee demonstrated initiative, ambition, or the ability to challenge the status quo early in their career? Please provide examples that show their potential to lead, influence, or innovate in their field (max 300 words).

Inspiration to Others

14. In what ways has the nominee served as a role model or motivator to others? Describe how they promote equity, collaboration, or inclusion among peers, colleagues, or their wider community (max 250 words).

Impact and Drive

15. What meaningful contributions has the nominee already made in their early career, and how do these reflect their commitment to continued growth and positive impact? Include any examples of results, recognition, or influence, no matter the scale (max 250 words).

Supporting Statements

16. Why are you nominating the nominee(s) for this award? (max 250 words).
17. Please list any related awards, recognition or honorary roles the nominee has received or undertaken.
18. Is there anything else you would like to add in support of the application? (max 250 words).

TU Dublin TrailblazHER Award

The TU Dublin TrailblazHER Award recognises students in TU Dublin who embodies the spirit of TrailblazHER™ in all that they do. The award celebrates a student of TU Dublin who embodies the values of courage, leadership, inclusion, and positive change, in short, a true TrailblazHER. This award recognises a woman who demonstrates integrity and leadership and contributes meaningfully to the TU Dublin community and beyond. Whether through volunteering, activism, mentoring, innovation, student leadership, or academic achievement, this student shines as an inspiring role model for their peers and a promising changemaker of tomorrow.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to individuals who identify as a woman.
- Nominees must be an enrolled student at TU Dublin during the year 2025. This includes full-time and part-time students undertaking access programmes, apprenticeships, undergraduate or postgraduate courses.
- Nominees must demonstrate leadership and positive impact on campus, in the community, or in their field of study.

Nomination Process:

- Self-nomination: All individuals are encouraged to put themselves forward.
- Peer nomination: Colleagues, lecturers, supervisors, team members or collaborators can nominate a deserving woman who has inspired or influenced them through their efforts.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Leadership Through Initiative and Innovation: Demonstratable leadership to create positive change, willingness to learn and engage new opportunities, inspiring others to participate or think differently.
2. Contribution to the University Community: Evidence of helping to foster an inclusive, vibrant, and supportive campus culture through their actions and involvement. Whether through participation or leadership societies, peer mentoring, student wellbeing, or inclusion initiatives, the individual helps to strengthen community ties and uplifts underrepresented or vulnerable groups.
3. Social Impact and Civic Engagement: Commitment to making a difference beyond the university through hands-on engagement with social, environmental, or cultural causes including volunteerism, advocacy, or service projects that benefit others.

Application Form:

Nomination Type

1. Are you nominating yourself or a peer?
 - Self-nomination
 - Peer-nomination
2. Please confirm your name and email
3. If nominating a peer, please confirm you have permission to share personal contact information for the purposes of the application.
 - Yes, I confirm
 - No, I do not confirm
4. Please describe your relationship to the nominee
5. Please confirm the nominee's full name including any titles
6. Please confirm the nominee's pronouns if known
7. Please provide an email address for the nominee
8. Please provide a phone number for the nominee

9. Please confirm the student's degree and year of study at TU Dublin
10. Please confirm the student's number if known. If unknown, please confirm.
11. Please confirm which campus(es) the student attends if known. Please select all that apply.
 - Grangegorman
 - Tallaght
 - Blanchardstown
 - Bolton Street
 - Aungier Street
 - Unknown
12. Please provide links to the nominee's digital profiles e.g. website, LinkedIn profile
13. Please provide a short summary of the nominee's actions that embodies the values of courage, leadership and positive change. (max 250 words)
14. How did you hear about TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards? Please select as many as required.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TrailblazHER™ Website • TU Dublin Staff • LinkedIn • Facebook • Event/Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TU Dublin Student • Email • Instagram • Personal Invitation • Word of Mouth
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Leadership Through Initiative and Innovation

15. Describe how the nominee demonstrates leadership, initiative and innovation at TU Dublin (max 300 words)

Contribution to the University Community

16. In what ways does the nominee contribute to an inclusive, vibrant, and supportive campus culture through their actions and involvement? Give specific examples of participation in leadership societies, peer mentoring, student wellbeing, or inclusion initiatives where applicable (max 300 words).

Social Impact and Civic Engagement

17. In what ways is the nominee making a positive impact beyond TU Dublin? Provide examples of engagement in volunteerism, social justice, sustainability, or advocacy efforts that show their commitment to driving meaningful change (max 300 words).

Supporting Statements

18. Why are you nominating the nominee for this award? (max 250 words).
19. Please list any related awards, recognition or honorary roles the nominee has received or undertaken.
20. Is there anything else you would like to add in support of the application? (max 250 words).

Trailblazing Alumna Award

The Trailblazing Alumna Award honours a woman who has graduated from the university (*TU Dublin, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Institute of Technology Tallaght or Dublin Institute of Technology*) and gone on to make a noteworthy impact in their field, community, or society. This award recognises outstanding alumnae who have distinguished themselves through professional achievements, leadership, service, and a continued connection to the university. Whether they are a leader in business, a changemaker in civil society, a pioneer in STEAM, or a community advocate, the Trailblazing Alumna embodies the values of excellence, resilience, and service.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to all individuals who identify as a woman and are a graduate (alumna) of the university (apprenticeship, undergraduate or postgraduate from TU Dublin, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown, Institute of Technology Tallaght or Dublin Institute of Technology).
- Nominees must have demonstrated significant career achievements, leadership, or societal impact.

Nomination Process:

- Self-nomination: All individuals are encouraged to put themselves forward.
- Peer nomination: Colleagues, lecturers, supervisors, managers, team members or collaborators can nominate a deserving individual who has inspired or influenced them through their efforts.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Career Achievements and Leadership: Demonstratable excellence and leadership, driving innovation, mentoring others, and achieving meaningful impact in their field.
2. Contribution to the Industry and Society: Actively advances their industry or community through thought leadership, collaboration, and initiatives that promote positive societal change.
3. Impact on the University Community: Demonstrates lasting commitment to the university through mentorship, engagement, and efforts that strengthen connection and opportunity.

Application Form:

Nominator(s) Profile:

1. Are you nominating yourself or a peer?
 - Self-nomination
 - Peer-nomination
2. Please confirm your name and email.
3. If nominating a peer, please confirm you have permission to share personal contact information for the purposes of the application.
 - Yes, I confirm
 - No, I do not confirm
4. Please describe your relationship to the nominee.
5. Please confirm the nominee's full name including any titles.
6. Please confirm the nominee's pronouns if known.
7. Please provide an email address for the nominee.
8. Please provide a phone number for the nominee.
9. Please confirm the nominee's degree and years of study if known. If unknown, please confirm.
10. Please confirm the nominee's student number if known. If unknown, please confirm this.

11. Please confirm which campus(es) the student attended if known. Please select all that apply.
- Grangegorman
 - Tallaght
 - Blanchardstown
 - Bolton Street
 - Aungier Street
 - Unknown
12. Please provide links to the nominee's digital profiles e.g. website, LinkedIn profile.
13. Please provide a short summary of the nominee's actions that embodies the values of this award (max 250 words).
14. How did you hear about the TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards? Please select all that apply.
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| • TrailblazHER™ Website | • TU Dublin Student |
| • TU Dublin Staff | • Email |
| • LinkedIn | • Instagram |
| • Facebook | • Personal Invitation |
| • Event/Meeting | • Word of Mouth |

Career Achievements and Leadership

15. How has the nominee distinguished themselves through their professional achievements and leadership since graduating? Please provide examples that highlight their excellence, innovation, or resilience in their field (max 300 words).

Contributions to Industry and Society

16. In what ways has the nominee made a meaningful impact on their industry, community, or society at large? Describe their contributions to positive change, advocacy, or public engagement (max 300 words).

Impact on the University Community

17. How has the nominee maintained a connection to TU Dublin or its legacy institutes (DIT, ITT, or ITB), and how have they contributed to inspiring or supporting current students, graduates, or the wider university community? (max 300 words).

Supporting Statements

18. Why are you nominating the nominee for this award? (max 250 words).
19. Please list any related awards, recognition or honorary roles the nominee has received or undertaken.
20. Is there anything else you would like to add in support of the application? (max 250 words)

Trailblazing Returners Award

The Trailblazing Returners Award celebrates the resilience, ambition, and talent of a woman who has successfully re-entered the workforce after a career break. This award recognises the courage it takes to restart or reinvent a professional journey, whether after maternity or parental leave, caregiving responsibilities, health reasons, or other personal circumstances and honours the remarkable contributions made upon return.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to all individuals who identify as a woman.
- Nominees must have taken a break in employment and returned to work within the last 5 years.
- Nominees must have demonstrated professional impact since returning, such as innovation, leadership, collaboration, or mentoring others.

Nomination Process:

- Self-nomination: All individuals are encouraged to put themselves forward.
- Peer nomination: Colleagues, supervisors, managers, team members or collaborators can nominate a deserving woman who has inspired or influenced them through their efforts.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Resilience and Adaptability: Overcoming barriers to re-entry and demonstrating commitment to growth with flexibility in learning, adapting, or shifting focus.
2. Impact Since Return: Making a positive difference within their organisation or industry by delivering results, innovation, or leadership since their return.
3. Inspiration and Mentorship: Serving as a role model for other returners or underrepresented professionals by supporting inclusion or helping others navigate transitions.

Application Form:

Nominator(s) Profile:

1. Are you nominating yourself or a peer?
 - Self-nomination
 - Peer-nomination
2. Please confirm your name and email.
3. If nominating a peer, please confirm you have permission to share personal contact information for the purposes of the application.
 - Yes, I confirm
 - No, I do not confirm
4. Please describe your relationship to the nominee.
5. Please confirm the nominee's full name including any titles.
6. Please confirm the nominee's pronouns if known.
7. Please provide an email address for the nominee.
8. Please provide a phone number for the nominee.
9. Please confirm the nominee's job title, position and organisation where applicable.
10. Please provide links to the nominee's digital profiles e.g. website, LinkedIn profile.
11. Please provide a short summary of the nominee's actions that embodies the values of this award (max 250 words).
12. How did you hear about TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards? Please select as many as required.
 - TrailblazHER™ Website
 - TU Dublin Student
 - TU Dublin Staff
 - Email
 - LinkedIn
 - Instagram

- Facebook
- Event/Meeting
- Personal Invitation
- Word of Mouth

Resilience and Adaptability

13. Describe the nominee's journey returning to work after their career break. What challenges did they face, and how did they demonstrate resilience, adaptability, or a commitment to learning and growth during this transition? (max 300 words).

Impact Since Return

14. Since returning to work, how has the nominee made a meaningful contribution to their team, organisation, or industry? Please include examples of leadership, innovation, collaboration, or other impactful achievements (max 300 words).

Inspiration To Others

15. In what ways has the nominee inspired or supported others, particularly fellow returners or underrepresented professionals? Share how they have contributed to building a more inclusive or supportive workplace culture (max 300 words).

Supporting Statements

16. Why are you nominating the nominee for this award? (max 250 words).
17. Please list any related awards, recognition or honorary roles the nominee has received or undertake.
18. Is there anything else you would like to add in support of the application? (max 250 words).

TrailblazHER™ DEI Research and Development Award

The TrailblazHER™ DEI Research and Development Award recognises the importance of research informed practices by honouring researchers and practitioners who have made significant contributions to advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in their fields. The award spotlights individuals or teams whose work actively promotes inclusive practices, addresses systemic inequities, or enhances representation across underserved or marginalised communities. Recipients may be recognised for innovative research, impactful programmes, or leadership that drives measurable change.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to all individuals, teams, initiatives and organisations performing research and development in the DEI space.
- Nominees must have demonstratable delivery of research, practices and policies and impacts.

Nomination Process:

- Self-nomination: All individuals are encouraged to put themselves forward.
- Peer nomination: Colleagues, supervisors, managers, team members or collaborators can nominate a deserving individual/team/organisation who has inspired or influenced them through their efforts.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Innovation in DEI Research and Innovation: Demonstrates original, creative, or boundary-pushing research that advances new thinking in diversity, equity, and inclusion.
2. Contribution To Practices: Contributions to research supported practices, data-driven improvements in DEI-related policies, programmes, or actions.
3. Impact To Organisations and Community: Evidence of tangible impacts of research and development within organisations or communities, including influence, uptake, or lasting change.

Application Form:

Nominator(s) Profile

1. Are you nominating yourself or a peer?
 - Self-nomination
 - Peer-nomination
2. Please confirm your name and email.
3. If nominating a peer/team/project/initiative, please confirm you have permission to share personal contact information for the purposes of the application.
 - Yes, I confirm
 - No, I do not confirm
4. Please describe your relationship to the nominee(s)/team.
5. Please confirm the nominee's full name including any titles. If nominating an initiative/project, please provide the full name of the lead contact.
6. Please confirm the nominee's/lead contact's pronouns if known.
7. Please provide an email address for the nominee/lead contact.
8. Please provide a phone number for the nominee/lead contact.
9. Please confirm the nominee's/lead contact's job title, position and organisation where applicable.

10. Please provide links to the nominee's digital profiles e.g. website, LinkedIn profile. If nominating an initiative/project, please provide all relevant links to digital profiles.
11. Please confirm the industry or sector the nominee or initiative/project operates within. Please select all that apply.
 - Industry
 - Academia
 - Community
 - Public Service
12. Please provide a short summary of the nominee's/team's actions that embodies the values of this award (max 250 words).
13. How did you hear about TrailblazHER™ Excellence Awards? Please select as many as required.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TrailblazHER™ Website • TU Dublin Staff • LinkedIn • Facebook • Event/Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TU Dublin Student • Email • Instagram • Personal Invitation • Word of Mouth
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Innovation in DEI Research and Innovation

14. How does the nominee's research demonstrate originality or push the boundaries of current thinking in diversity, equity, and inclusion? Please describe any novel approaches, topics, or methodologies used (max 300 words).

Contribution to Practices

15. In what ways has the research informed or shaped DEI practices, policies, or programmes? Provide examples of how the findings have been applied or translated into action (max 300 words).

Impact on Organisations and Community

16. What measurable or meaningful impact has the research had on organisations, communities, or broader systems? Include evidence of uptake, influence, or sustained change (max 300 words).

Supporting Statements

17. Why are you nominating the nominee/initiative/organisation for this award? (max 250 words).
18. Please list any related awards, recognition or honorary roles the nominee/initiative/organisation has received or undertaken.
19. Is there anything else you would like to add in support of the application? (max 250 words).

APPENDIX 2
APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Appendix 2: Application Checklist

Please use this checklist to ensure your application is fully complete and the best possible application is submitted.

A reminder that there is no limit to the number of categories or nominations an entry can submit. However, an application form for each category must be submitted. Joint applications will not be accepted. All applications close at 11.30pm (IST) on Wednesday 27th August 2025.

Step	Requirements	Notes	
1. Pre-Application	Eligibility Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review eligibility requirements for each award of interest. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Evaluation Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the evaluation criteria 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Entry Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locate the application portal and the application form of choice. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Application Form Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the relevant application form via the online portal or offline in Appendix 1 for all questions. Take note of word limits. Collate all necessary information, and where possible, draft responses to questions. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Queries	Queries and Clarification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review FAQs and contact TrailblazHERExcellenceAwards@gmail.com for any outstanding queries. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Online Application Form	Application Form Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the application form in full. All responses must remain within the specified word limits. The form must be completed in one sitting. You will not be able to save your progress and return later, nor can you amend any responses once the application form is submitted. Do not include links to external pages except where requested. Links to alternative platforms or documents will not be reviewed. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Post-Application	Post-Application Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once submitted, select option to receive application responses. You will receive an email with your application form included. 	<input type="checkbox"/>