CALD
ACADEMIC
AWARDS

2027

# CALD ACADEMIC AWARDS

## NOMINATION GUIDELINES

COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN LAW DEANS

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## Executive Summary

Each year, the Council of Australian Law Deans (CALD), in collaboration with LEAD and LADRN, administers the CALD Academic Awards to celebrate excellence in legal education and research across Australian law schools.

**Award Categories**

**CALD Legal Education Awards**:

- Teaching Excellence Award
- Teaching Excellence Award: Early Career
- Teaching Excellence Award: Sessional
- Teaching Excellence Award: Engagement
- Teaching Excellence Award: Research Supervision

**CALD Legal Research Awards**:

- Research Excellence Award: Article or Chapter
- Research Excellence Award: Early Career
- Research Excellence Award: Non-Traditional Output
- Research Excellence Award: Indigenous Legal Research
- Research Excellence Award: Book or Monograph
- Research Excellence Award: PhD

(The last two awards are awarded in alternate years.)

**CALD Lifetime Achievement Award**:

- For sustained and exceptional contributions to legal education and/or research.

**Eligibility Criteria**

Nominees must be affiliated with a CALD member law school. Specific eligibility rules apply per category.

**Nomination Process**

1. Each law school may submit one nomination per award.
2. Nominations must be endorsed by the relevant Associate Dean or Dean.
3. Submissions are due by the last Wednesday in February.
4. All nominations must be submitted via the CALD Academic Awards website.

**Assessment**

Award Panels appointed by LEAD/LADRN assess the nominations and make recommendations to the Awards Committee.

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| **Timeline** | • November: Call for nominations<br>• February: Submission deadline<br>• March–May: Assessing<br>• May: Notification of winners<br>• June: Arranging of trophies and notification of unsuccessful nominees<br>• July: Announcement at ALAA Conference Gala Dinner |
| **Prizes** | Each Education and Research Award winner receives $1000 and a trophy. Each Lifetime Achievement Award winner receives a trophy. |
| **Submission Requirements** | Strict page limits and formatting rules apply. Submissions must follow AGLC4 referencing. |

# Introduction

The Council of Australian Law Deans (CALD) has established a national awards scheme in collaboration with the Legal Education Associate Deans (LEAD) Network and the Law Associate Deans Research Network (LADRN) to recognise and reward high-quality teaching and research within Australian law schools. This initiative aims to foster excellence and innovation in legal education and research, thereby enhancing the overall quality and reputation of Australian law schools.

### *Background*

Until 2025, LEAD administered the Australian Legal Education Awards (ALEAs) and LADRN administered the Australian Legal Research Awards (ALRAs). Both award schemes were funded by CALD and administered successfully for five years. CALD is indebted to the hard work by the LEAD and LADRN Co-Chairs and Awards Coordinators, in particular Judith Marychurch, Kelley Burton and Jennifer McKay. Without their hard work, the CALD Academic Awards would not exist today.

### *National Awards Scheme*

Since 2026, CALD, LEAD, and LADRN collaborate to offer a national annual awards scheme, encompassing both teaching and research awards. This unified approach aims to provide a comprehensive platform for celebrating excellence in legal academia.

The name for this national awards scheme is the **CALD Academic Awards**. The CALD Academic Awards include three main categories of awards: the CALD Legal Education Awards, the CALD Legal Research Awards, and the CALD Lifetime Achievement Awards. Each year, five awards are given in the Legal Education category, five are given in the Legal Research category, and one or more Lifetime Achievement Awards are presented.

## Purpose of the Awards

The primary objective of the CALD Academic Awards is to recognise, encourage and promote excellence and innovation in legal education and legal research in the discipline of law, as well as:

- to enhance and promote the shared identity of law as a distinct academic discipline within the Australian academy;
- to establish a pathway for Australian legal academics to be able to demonstrate their contribution to the quality of legal education and legal research at a national level in the discipline of law;
- to disseminate examples of excellence and innovation in the legal education and legal research work undertaken by Australian legal academics;
- to provide a visible platform to celebrate contributions to education and research that can be effectively conveyed beyond the law discipline to the Australian and international academy; and
- to provide a pathway from, and evidence for, national and international teaching and research awards and fellowships, as well as for confirmation and promotion applications by Australian legal academics.

## Awards Committee

The CALD Academic Awards Committee is responsible for overseeing the administration and adjudication of the awards. The Committee consists of:

- the CALD Co-Chair,
- the CALD Vice Chair Legal Education,
- the CALD Vice Chair Legal Research,
- the LEAD Co-Chairs,
- the LADRN Co-Chairs,
- the CALD Executive Officer,
- the LEAD Administrator, and
- the LADRN Administrator.

## Awards Website

CALD administers the CALD Academic Awards website, which serves as the central platform for all information related to the CALD Academic Awards. The website provides details about the awards, the nomination process, and the awards assessment criteria. All nominations are submitted via the website to streamline the submission process and ensure that all required information is collected efficiently. The winners are announced on the website, together with a list of all prior winners of the CALD Academic Awards, the ALEAs and the ALRAs.

## Award Categories

The CALD Academic Awards include a total of eleven awards each year, in three categories.

### *CALD Legal Education Awards*

The **CALD Legal Education Awards** include the following awards:

- Teaching Excellence Award – This Award recognises sustained excellence in teaching and learning in legal education.
- Teaching Excellence Award: Early Career – This Award recognises sustained excellence in teaching and learning in legal education by an early career academic.
- Teaching Excellence Award: Sessional – This Award recognises sustained excellence in teaching and learning in legal education by a sessional academic.
- Teaching Excellence Award: Engagement – This Award focuses on the demonstration of sustained excellence in teaching and learning in legal education that engage with the broader community, through initiatives such as (indicative and not prescriptive) work-integrated learning programs, clinic-based learning and community legal education.
- Teaching Excellence Award: Research Supervision – This Award focuses on achievement in teaching and learning in legal education in the form of higher degree research supervision.

These awards aim to recognise outstanding teaching practices and contributions to student engagement and research supervision.

The criteria and eligibility for each award are set out below.[1]

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| **Teaching Excellence Award** | Nominees must be an academic staff member at a CALD member school with a sustained contribution to legal education over a period of at least five years as at the closing date for the award nominations.<br><br>Nominees must address **TWO** of the following criteria:<br><br>1. Approaches to teaching and/or the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn. |

[1] The criteria for the first three awards are based on the criteria for the Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT) Citations or Teaching Awards to enable nominees to refine their narrative against the criteria for both the CALD Academic Awards and the AAUT awards. Criteria for the other awards are inspired by the same criteria but modified to draw out the particular aspects relevant to those awards (relating to engagement and research supervision). LEAD and CALD gratefully acknowledge the AAUT program's permission to use the criteria for the AAUT awards and the assessment rubrics used for the AAUT assessment process in the CALD Academic Awards. We hope that this will lead, ultimately, to better quality AAUT nominations and also more experienced assessors from the discipline of law who may seek to become assessors for the AAUT program. Nominees seeking to apply for the AAUT awards should note that the AAUT assessment rubrics are updated annually, and that the AAUT criteria may be amended over time. Please also note that the AAUT eligibility criteria are different to those for the CALD Academic Awards and that nominees applying for the AAUT awards program should ensure that they meet the relevant eligibility criteria for those awards.

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| | 2. Development of curricula, resources and services that reflect a command of the field.<br>3. Effective assessment practices that bring about improvements in student learning, may have a focus on academic integrity or digital solutions, or any assessment strategies that bring about change.<br>4. Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or the student experience. |
| **Teaching Excellence Award: Early Career** | Nominees must be an academic staff member at a CALD member law school employed as such over a period of no more than five years as at the closing date for award nominations. Nominees must explicitly state the years that comprise the five-year period, including any career interruptions.[2]<br><br>Nominees must address ONE of the following criteria:<br><br>1. Approaches to teaching and/or the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn.<br>2. Development of curricula, resources and services that reflect a command of the field.<br>3. Effective assessment practices that bring about improvements in student learning, may have a focus on academic integrity or digital solutions, or any assessment strategies that bring about change.<br>4. Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or the student experience. |
| **Teaching Excellence Award: Sessional** | Nominees must be an academic staff member at a CALD member law school employed as such over a period of at least two years as at the closing date for award nominations on a sessional basis – either as a casual employee or on a fixed term contract of 12 months or less (consecutive contracts permitted).<br><br>Nominees must address ONE of the following criteria:<br><br>1. Approaches to teaching and/or the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn.<br>2. Development of curricula, resources and services that reflect a command of the field.<br>3. Effective assessment practices that bring about improvements in student learning, may have a focus on academic integrity or digital solutions, or any assessment strategies that bring about change.<br>4. Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or the student experience. |

[2] If the nominee has been employed as an academic staff member for more than 5 years, they are ineligible for the Teaching Excellence (Early Career) Award and are encouraged to apply for another award. The Award Panel may consult publicly available profiles to confirm career information if there are queries about eligibility. Please note that, for the purposes of this award, early career' does not have the same meaning as applied in a research context, and does not require the law teacher to have enrolled in or completed a PhD. 'Early career' merely denotes the timeframe relevant to this award.

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| **Teaching Excellence Award: Engagement** | Nominees must be an academic staff member at a CALD member law school with a sustained contribution to legal education over a period of at least five years as at the closing date for award nominations.<br><br>This category is intended to encompass a range of potential initiatives or innovations, including, but not limited to:<br><br>• student transition and retention initiatives;<br>• student academic integrity initiatives;<br>• clinical legal education partnerships;<br>• industry and professional partnerships;<br>• mooting, advocacy or professional skill development programs or initiatives;<br>• student engagement initiatives;<br>• community outreach and legal education programs;<br>• student leadership initiatives; and<br>• co-curricular and extra-curricular programs.<br><br>Nominees must address **TWO** of the following criteria:<br><br>1. Approaches to teaching, student engagement, and/or the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn and succeed.<br>2. Development of initiatives, programs, partnerships or services that demonstrate leadership and innovation and enhance student learning professional development or engagement.<br>3. Initiatives, innovations or programs that have enhanced engagement between students and the legal profession, industry, alumni, community organisations, or other stakeholders, resulting in demonstrable benefits for student learning, sense of belonging, professional development or graduate outcomes. |
| **Teaching Excellence Award: Research Supervision** | Nominees must be an academic staff member at a CALD member law school with a sustained contribution to teaching and learning through higher degree research supervision over a period of at least five years as at the closing date for award nominations.<br><br>Nominees must address TWO of the following criteria:<br><br>1. Approaches to research supervision that influence, motivate and inspire higher degree research students to learn.<br>2. Supervision practices that lead to higher degree research theses judged to be of an excellent standard and/or high-quality student publications and/or student awards for their higher degree research and/or student presentations on their higher degree research at prestigious conferences.<br>3. Supervision practices that foster higher degree research students' development as researchers and/or their career development. |

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| | 4. Innovation, leadership or scholarship in higher degree research supervision that has influenced and enhanced supervision practices at a school, institutional or national level. |

### *CALD Legal Research Awards*

The **CALD Legal Research Awards** include the following awards:

- Research Excellence Award: Article or Chapter – This award celebrates that mainstay of academic research, the traditional research article (including book chapters in edited collections).
- Research Excellence Award: Early Career – This award recognises the contribution of early career academics in producing a discrete research output, whether journal article or book chapter.
- Research Excellence Award: Non-Traditional Output – This award is intended to encourage, recognise and reward research innovation that does not conform to traditional academic outputs, such as videos, films, artistic works, blogs, and software.
- Research Excellence Award: Indigenous Legal Research – This award recognises research outputs where at least one author is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander scholar.
- Research Excellence Award: Book or Monograph – This award celebrates the substantial contribution that is made by the sustained in-depth analysis provided by a legal book, monograph or edited collection.
- Research Excellence Award: PhD – This award focuses on the starting point of the contemporary academic pathway, celebrating excellence in doctoral studies.

NB. The Research Excellence Award: Book or Monograph and the Research Excellence Award: PhD are awarded in alternating years.

***In 2027, the Research Excellence Award: Book or Monograph will <u>not</u> be accepting nominations.***

The eligibility for each award is set out below.

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| **Research Excellence Award: Article or Chapter** | 1. The subject matter of the publication is at least 66% within Field of Research code 48 (Law and Legal Studies) as assessed by the relevant institution in accordance with ARC guidelines.<br>2. The nominee is an academic staff member at a CALD member law school (or equivalent) where that staff member is employed at least 0.4 FTE at the time of the nomination. For co-authored works, at least 50% of all authors must be eligible in accordance with employment requirement.<br>3. The publication satisfies the HERDC definition of 'research and experimental development'.<br>4. The publication was published between 1 January and 31 December of the year prior to the year the award is granted.<br>5. The publication has not been nominated for this award in previous years. |

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| **Research Excellence Award: Early Career** | 1. The subject matter of the publication is at least 66% within Field of Research code 48 (Law and Legal Studies) as assessed by the relevant institution in accordance with ARC guidelines.<br>2. The nominee is an academic staff member at a CALD member law school (or equivalent) where that staff member is employed at least 0.4 FTE at the time of the nomination. Alternatively, the applicant may be a Higher Degree by Research student at a CALD member law school (or equivalent). For co-authored works, at least 50% of all authors must be eligible in accordance with employment requirement.<br>3. The nominee is an early career researcher. Generally, a nominee will be eligible to apply where the nomination is made within five years of the conferral date of their PhD or equivalent research higher degree. A nominee will also be considered an early career researcher where they are currently undertaking a research higher degree, provided they have not been employed as an academic for more than 10 years. The assessment of eligibility will be guided by the ARC eligible career interruption policy. For co-authored works, all authors must meet the ECR requirement.<br>4. The publication satisfies the HERDC definition of 'research and experimental development'.<br>5. The publication was published between 1 January and 31 December of the year prior to the year the award is granted.<br>6. The publication has not been nominated for this award in previous years. |
| **Research Excellence Award: Non-Traditional Output** | 1. The subject matter of the publication or output is at least 66% within Field of Research code 48 (Law and Legal Studies) as assessed by the relevant institution in accordance with ARC guidelines.<br>2. The nominee is an academic staff member at a CALD member law school (or equivalent) where that staff member is employed at least 0.4 FTE at the time of the nomination. For co-authored works, at least 50% of all authors must be eligible in accordance with employment requirement.<br>3. The publication or output satisfies the HERDC definition of 'research and experimental development'.<br>4. The publication or output is a non-traditional research output. This may include submissions and reports, artistic works (including videos, films, etc), blogposts and other new media and software. These categories are intended to be indicative and inclusive, and the form of the output is not restricted to these examples.[3]<br>5. The publication or output was published between 1 January and 31 December of the year prior to the year the award is granted. |

[3] Note that a broad approach can be taken to what is eligible research for a non-traditional output. The general HERDC definition of R&D is "creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge – including knowledge of humankind, culture and society – and to devise new applications of available knowledge." And "Applied Research is original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however, directed primarily towards a specific, practical aim or objective (including a client-driven purpose)."

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| | 6. The publication or output has not been nominated for this award in previous years. |
| **Research Excellence Award: Indigenous Legal Research** | 1. The subject matter of the publication is at least 66% within Field of Research code 48 (Law and Legal Studies) as assessed by the relevant institution in accordance with ARC guidelines.<br>2. The nominee is an academic staff member at a CALD member law school (or equivalent) where that staff member is employed at least 0.4 FTE at the time of the nomination. For co-authored works, at least 50% of all authors must be eligible in accordance with employment requirement.<br>3. At least one author is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander scholar.<br>4. The publication satisfies the HERDC definition of 'research and experimental development'.<br>5. The publication was published between 1 January and 31 December of the year prior to the year the award is granted.<br>6. The publication has not been nominated for this award in previous years. |
| **Research Excellence Award: Book or Monograph**<br>***(not accepting nominations in 2027)*** | 1. The subject matter of the publication is at least 66% within Field of Research code 48 (Law and Legal Studies) as assessed by the relevant institution in accordance with ARC guidelines.<br>2. The nominee is an academic staff member at a CALD member law school (or equivalent) where that staff member is employed at least 0.4 FTE at the time of the nomination. For co-authored works, at least 50% of all authors must be eligible in accordance with the employment requirement.<br>3. The publication satisfies the HERDC definition of 'research and experimental development'.<br>4. The publication was published within the two calendar years prior to the year the award is granted.<br>5. The publication has not been nominated for this award in previous years. |
| **Research Excellence Award: PhD** | 1. The subject matter of the PhD is at least 66% within Field of Research code 48 (Law and Legal Studies) as assessed by the relevant institution in accordance with ARC guidelines.<br>2. The nominee completed their PhD at the CALD member Law School (or equivalent) submitting the nomination. The nominee was awarded their PhD in the 24 months preceding the nomination date. |

### *CALD Lifetime Achievement Award*

The **CALD Lifetime Achievement Award** is presented to an individual who has made a significant and sustained contribution to legal education and/or research over an academic career spanning at least 25 years (nationally or internationally). This award aims to honour those who have had a lasting impact on the legal academy and have demonstrated exceptional dedication and achievement.

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| **CALD Lifetime Achievement Award** | Nominations must include a cover letter and either the nominee's resume or a link to the nominee's online profile. The cover letter must confirm that the nominee has been notified of their nomination.<br><br>Nominations will be assessed by the CALD Executive Committee against the following criteria:<br><br>1. National or international expertise in their field<br>2. Evidence of sustained leadership and collaboration in legal education and/or legal research<br>3. Recognition of national or international influence and impact in legal education and/or legal research |

## Awards Process

The CALD Academic Awards process is modelled on the successful ALEA process and seeks to ensure a fair and transparent selection process. The work assessing nominations for the CALD Academic Awards will be conducted by Award Review Panels, one for each Award.

### *Call for Nominations*

The process begins with a call for nominations in November of each year.

Each law school is permitted to submit one nomination per Award. Individual law schools manage any preliminary selection process, if required, and are encouraged to develop internal processes for selecting their school nominee for each Award. Each nomination must be endorsed by the relevant Associate Dean or Dean.

### *Responsibilities of Nominees Submitting on Behalf of a Team or Co-Author/s*

It is the responsibility of all nominees/nominators to ensure that the required eligibility and criteria are met on submission of the application. The Award Review Panel may consult any publicly available information to verify that a nominee meets any eligibility criterion.

For any team nomination, the nominee submitting the nomination must confirm that they have obtained the consent of any team member to 1. submit the nomination including that person's name and 2. that the co-nominee has agreed with the statement of their contribution and/or impact as set forth in the nomination.

Nominations must be submitted via the CALD Academic Awards website.

### *Content of Nominations*

| **CALD Legal Education Awards** | |
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| Teaching Excellence | • Six pages addressing the relevant criteria<br>• Two referee reports (one must be external to the nominee's institution) not being longer than one page each |
| Teaching Excellence: Early Career | • Four pages addressing the relevant criteria<br>• One referee report (may be internal or external to the nominee's institution) not being longer than one page |
| Teaching Excellence: Sessional | • Four pages addressing the relevant criteria<br>• One referee report (may be internal or external to the nominee's institution) not being longer than one page |
| Teaching Excellence: Engagement | • Six pages addressing the relevant criteria<br>• Two referee reports (one must be external to the nominee's institution) not being longer than one page each |

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| Teaching Excellence: Research Supervision | • Six pages addressing the relevant criteria<br>• Two referee reports (one must be external to the nominee's institution) not being longer than one page each |
| **CALD Legal Research Awards** | |
| Research Excellence Award: Article or Chapter | • A one-page summary of the publication<br>• A one-page statement outlining its significance and contribution to the relevant legal discipline, and outlining why this work represents an outstanding example of legal scholarship, such that it would be a worthy recipient of the Award<br>• An electronic version of the publication (an author's manuscript or equivalent is sufficient) |
| Research Excellence Award: Early Career | • A one-page summary of the publication<br>• A one-page statement outlining its significance and contribution to the relevant legal discipline, and outlining why this work represents an outstanding example of legal scholarship, such that it would be a worthy recipient of the Award<br>• An electronic version of the publication (an author's manuscript or equivalent is sufficient) |
| Research Excellence Award: Non-Traditional Output | • A one-page summary of the publication<br>• A one-page statement outlining its significance and contribution to the relevant legal discipline, and outlining why this work represents an outstanding example of legal scholarship, such that it would be a worthy recipient of the Award<br>• An electronic version of the publication (an author's manuscript or equivalent is sufficient) |
| Research Excellence Award: Indigenous Legal Research | • A one-page summary of the publication<br>• A one-page statement outlining its significance and contribution to the relevant legal discipline, and outlining why this work represents an outstanding example of legal scholarship, such that it would be a worthy recipient of the Award<br>• An electronic version of the publication (an author's manuscript or equivalent is sufficient) |
| Research Excellence Award: Book or Monograph<br>*(not accepting nominations in 2027)* | • A one-page summary of the publication<br>• A one-page statement outlining its significance and contribution to the relevant legal discipline, and outlining why this work represents an outstanding example of legal scholarship, such that it would be a worthy recipient of the Award<br>• An electronic version of the publication (an author's manuscript or equivalent is sufficient) |

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| Research Excellence Award: PhD | • A one-page summary of the thesis<br>• A one-page statement outlining its significance and contribution to the relevant legal discipline, and outlining why this work represents an outstanding example of legal scholarship, such that it would be a worthy recipient of the Award<br>• An electronic version of the thesis and all examiners' reports |
| **CALD Lifetime Achievement Award** | A cover letter and either the nominee's resume or a link to the nominee's online profile (which can be provided in the cover letter). The cover letter need not be detailed, and no referee reports are required. It should however confirm that the nominee has been notified of their nomination. |

### *Supporting Evidence – Legal Education Awards*

For CALD Legal Education Awards, nominees are encouraged to refer to a wide range of evidence, both qualitative and quantitative, from students, peers, and other stakeholders. Examples of evidence include:

- student survey results (formal and informal), including comments,
- feedback from peer reviewers,
- feedback from teaching colleagues, including subject coordinators and tutors,
- feedback from colleagues who have adopted approaches based on the nominee's work,
- feedback from industry or professional stakeholders,
- learning analytics, such as from Learning Management System (LMS) sites, and
- scholarship in legal education and legal research, including publications and citations.

For other examples of evidence, see the websites for the AAUTs and the Australian University Teaching & Criteria & Standards. Many institutions also provide resources and support for teaching award nominees, and these may also be useful in preparing your case.

### *Additional requirements – Legal Research Awards*

1. Where a research output has been co-authored and one or more co-authors are not Award nominees, the co-authors must nevertheless approve the nominee's nomination which must include a statement describing the extent of the nominee's individual contribution.
2. Nominations for the Research Excellence Award: PhD must be submitted by the institution that awarded the nominee's PhD. An institution that did not confer the PhD is not eligible to submit a nomination. Where a nominee is employed by another institution at the time of nomination, the employing institution may provide supporting statements or evidence but may not act as the nominating institution.

### *Formatting Requirements*

The following formatting requirements apply to ALL nominations (other than the CALD Lifetime Achievement Award):

1. Page to be set to A4 size.
2. Margin to be set to at least 2 cm all around with clear definition between paragraphs and no columns.
3. Line spacing to be set to single.
4. Font and size: Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman at 11 points (do not use narrow fonts).
5. Include the proposed citation in 25 words or less at the top of the first page of the nomination.
6. Insert a header with full name of nominee or name of team (Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman in font size 9).
7. Insert a Footer with name of award the nominee is applying for and page numbers (Arial or Calibri in font size 9).
8. Diagrams may be inserted into the nomination but should be able to be read clearly without magnifying the document and will count to the page limit.
9. References should comply with the AGLC4 and footnotes must be in Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman with a minimum of font size 9.
10. Where necessary, links to online materials may be reviewed or assessed.

***Eligibility of Past Award Recipients***

| **CALD Legal Education Awards** | |
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| Teaching Excellence Award | Past recipients are ineligible to nominate for the same award for a minimum of five years but may nominate for other CALD Academic Awards after the expiration of a minimum of three years from the date of communication of the successful nomination for the award. In addition, any further nomination/s must not substantially replicate the previous successful nomination. |
| Teaching Excellence Award: Early Career | Past recipients are ineligible to nominate for the same award in any future year but may nominate for other CALD Academic Awards after the expiration of a minimum of three years from the date of communication of the successful nomination for the award. In addition, any further nomination/s must not substantially replicate the previous successful nomination. |
| Teaching Excellence Award: Sessional | Past recipients are ineligible to nominate for the same award for a minimum of five years but may nominate for other CALD Academic Awards after the expiration of a minimum of three years from the date of communication of the successful nomination for the award. In addition, any further nomination/s must not substantially replicate the previous successful nomination. |
| Teaching Excellence Award: Engagement | Past recipients are ineligible to nominate for the same award for a minimum of five years but may apply for other CALD Academic Awards after the expiration of a minimum of three years from the date of communication of the successful nomination for the award. In addition, any further nomination/s must not substantially replicate the previous successful nomination. |
| Teaching Excellence Award: Research Supervision | Past recipients are ineligible to nominate for the same award for a minimum of five years but may nominate for other CALD Academic Awards after the expiration of a minimum of three years from the date of communication of the successful nomination for the award. In addition, any further nomination/s must not substantially replicate the previous successful nomination. |

| **CALD Legal Research Awards** | |
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| Research Excellence Award: Article or Chapter | Past recipients are ineligible to nominate for the same award for a minimum of five years but may nominate for other CALD Academic Awards after the expiration of a minimum of three years from the date of communication of the successful nomination for the award. In addition, any further nomination/s must not substantially replicate the previous successful nomination. |
| Research Excellence Award: Early Career | Past recipients are ineligible to nominate for the same award for a minimum of five years but may nominate for other CALD Academic Awards after the expiration of a minimum of three years from the date of communication of the successful nomination for the award. In addition, any further nomination/s must not substantially replicate the previous successful nomination. |
| Research Excellence Award: Non-Traditional Output | Past recipients are ineligible to nominate for the same award for a minimum of five years but may nominate for other CALD Academic Awards after the expiration of a minimum of three years from the date of communication of the successful nomination for the award. In addition, any further nomination/s must not substantially replicate the previous successful nomination. |
| Research Excellence Award: Indigenous Legal Research | Past recipients are ineligible to nominate for the same award for a minimum of five years but may nominate for other CALD Academic Awards after the expiration of a minimum of three years from the date of communication of the successful nomination for the award. In addition, any further nomination/s must not substantially replicate the previous successful nomination. |
| Research Excellence Award: Book or Monograph | Past recipients are ineligible to nominate for the same award for a minimum of five years but may nominate for other CALD Academic Awards after the expiration of a minimum of three years from the date of communication of the successful nomination for the award. In addition, any further nomination/s must not substantially replicate the previous successful nomination. |
| Research Excellence Award: PhD | Past recipients are ineligible to nominate for the same award in any future year but may nominate for other CALD Academic Awards after the expiration of a minimum of three years from the date of communication of the successful nomination for the award. In addition, any further nomination/s must not substantially replicate the previous successful nomination. |
| **CALD Lifetime Achievement Award** | Past recipients of a CALD Lifetime Achievement Award are not eligible to be nominated for further CALD Academic Awards, in any category. |

### *Submission Deadline*

The submission deadline for nominations is the last Wednesday in February of each year. **For the 2027 CALD Academic Awards, the submission deadline is 11:59pm (AEDT) / 11:29pm (AST) / 10:59pm (AEST) / 8:59pm (AWST) on Wednesday 23 February 2027.**

### *Assessing*

Following the submission deadline, the assessing process takes place from March to May.

The winners of each award are determined by an Award Panel and approved by the CALD Academic Awards Committee.

The panel for the Lifetime Achievement Award is the CALD Executive Committee.

### *Appointment of Award Panels*

Award Panels are composed of at least THREE volunteer law academics including one Award Panel Chair.

For the Legal Education Awards, the Award Panels are selected and appointed by the LEAD Co-Chairs. For the Legal Research Awards, the Award Panels are selected and appointed by the LADRN Co-Chairs.

The first task is the appointment by the LEAD or LADRN Co-Chairs of the Award Panel Chairs. The Award Panel Chair will be responsible for the operation and coordination of the Award Panel in conducting its assessment of nominations. Ideally, each Award Panel Chair will be a member of CALD, LEAD or LADRN at the time of being appointed; however appropriately qualified Award Panel Chairs may be co-opted where required (for example, to avoid conflicts of interest).

The composition of the Award Panels will be governed by the following principles:

- Each Award Panel will normally include at least one member who was on the panel in the previous year to ensure continuity and consistency in the assessing process.
- The LEAD or LADRN Co-Chairs will select members of the Award Panels.
- There will be one Award Panel for each award unless the number of nominations received for that category dictates an additional Award Panel in order to appropriately manage the workload. (This is addressed in more detail below.)
- Each Award Panel member, including the Chair, should be employed at Level C or above, or have an adjunct or emeritus appointment at an Australian law school.
- The Award Panel should be comprised of law academics from different Australian law schools, and different States and Territories wherever possible.
- In any given year, a law academic should generally serve on one Award Panel only.
- Past award recipients are encouraged to participate as Award Panel members.

Law schools are encouraged to:

- nominate potential Award Panel members when submitting nominations to ensure a substantial and diverse pool of assessors;

- promote to their academic staff the professional development opportunity of serving on an Award Panel or as Chair of an Award Panel;
- support the in-kind contribution by academic staff who serve as an Award Panel member or Chair; and
- recognise and acknowledge the workloads associated with being an Award Panel member or Chair.

### *Assessing by Award Panels*

The Award Panels assess nominations for a particular award against the criteria, rank the nominations and recommend the top-ranked award recipient for that category of award.

It is the responsibility of each Award Panel Chair to ensure that:

- all nominations are appropriately reviewed,
- where appropriate, shortlists are prepared for each category,
- the award recipient for the relevant category is determined, and
- appropriate feedback is provided to nominees.

The Award Panels process is as follows:

1. The Chair of each Award Panel asks the Award Panel members to individually assess and rank the nominees.
2. The Chair schedules a meeting of the Award Panel to conduct the collaborative assessment of the nominees.
3. Following the collaborative assessment, the Chair communicates the Award Panel's recommendation to the Awards Committee.
4. The Chair of each Award Panel is responsible for drafting and finalising feedback letters to all nominees using the template provided and emailing the letters to the Awards Committee.

With some awards (e.g. the Research Excellence Award: Book or Monograph) it may be necessary to conduct a 'triaging' assessment to determine whether or not the nomination is suitable for shortlisting. At this triaging stage, Panel members should generally skim read portions of the material rather than attempt to read it in its entirety and communicate their initial view to the Panel Chair. The Chair will then determine whether it is necessary for the Panel to meet to discuss the shortlist, or the Panel can proceed to meet to discuss which of the shortlisted nominations should receive the award.

The Chair of each Award Panel will seek to ensure that the workload of each Award Panel is reasonable and not unduly onerous given the relevant timeframes, based on the number of nominations for each award. Generally, Award Panels will be expected to assess no more than 10 nominations. If the number of nominations for an award exceeds the number that can reasonably be managed by a single panel, the LEAD or LADRN Co-Chairs may appoint additional Award Panel/s to consider nominations. Where this occurs, the Chairs of each Award Panel subsequently meet to determine the rankings of each Award Panel's top-ranked nominations and make a joint recommendation to the Awards Committee.

*Final Decisions*

The Awards Committee reviews the recommendations from each Award Panel. The Awards Committee may determine that a category of award should not be made in a particular year if the criteria have not been sufficiently met.

*Conflicts of Interest*

To avoid conflicts of interest, no member of the Awards Committee may be a nominee for any CALD Academic Award in that year, and no member of an Award Panel may be a nominee for the CALD Academic Award that they are assessing, nor may they have a close personal or working relationship with a nominee for that award unless this has been disclosed to the Awards Committee in advance and the Awards Committee is satisfied that the relationship and process for assessing the nominations will not be detrimentally affected in terms of the objectivity of assessment and the integrity of the assessment process.

### *Notification of Winners*

Successful nominees are confidentially notified in May by the Awards Committee in order to allow them to make arrangements to travel to the Australasian Law Academics Association (ALAA) Conference in July each year if desired.

### *Announcement of Winners*

The winners are publicly announced at the Australasian Law Academics Association (ALAA) Conference Gala Dinner in July.

If the winner of either a Legal Education Award or a Legal Research Award wishes to accept their Award in person, it is their responsibility to arrange their registration for and attendance at the ALAA Conference Gala Dinner. The CALD Awards Coordinator will make the necessary arrangements for the CALD Lifetime Achievement Award winner or winners.

Each Award winner receives a trophy from CALD. Each winner of the Legal Education Awards and Legal Research Awards also receives a monetary prize of $1000, funded by CALD. This financial reward aims to provide additional recognition and support for the winners' contributions. Where there are multiple winners in an award category, the money is divided between them.[4]

All feedback letters are sent to all unsuccessful nominees by the end of June.

[4] There is no monetary prize for the Lifetime Achievement Award winner, as the award itself is adequate to honour the recipient's significant and sustained contributions to the field.

## Data Gathering and Reporting

Data on nominations, assessors and winners is gathered, collated, and shared with CALD, LEAD, and LADRN. This data includes information on the number of nominations in each category, from each law school, and in each jurisdiction. This data gathering and reporting process help to ensure transparency and accountability in the CALD Academic Awards process and provide valuable insights for future improvements in the Awards scheme.

## Contact Details

For any questions regarding the CALD Academic Awards, please email the CALD Awards Committee at awards@cald.au.