



AUBEA Awards 2026

Industry-Academic Collaboration Award

Instructions

Purpose

To recognise an industry partner organisation that has made a significant, sustained, and impactful contribution to learning and teaching OR research through collaboration with an AUBEA member institution. This award celebrates partnerships that advance construction management and related built environment disciplines, support student and staff development, and demonstrate authentic industry engagement.

Application Guide

This award may be applied for in one of two streams:

- Learning & Teaching Collaboration
- Research and Knowledge Exchange Collaboration

Nominees must choose one stream only and address only that stream's criteria. If a partnership spans both teaching and research, the nominator must choose the dominant area of contribution for the purposes of assessment.

Nominations will be assessed only against the criteria of the chosen stream. The judging panel will determine the overall winner based on the demonstrated excellence and impact of the collaboration, the extent of benefit to the construction and built environment sector, and alignment with the strategic aims of AUBEA.

Award value: AU\$500. Only one Industry-Academic Collaboration Award will be presented each year, awarded to the highest-ranked submission across both streams. The panel may, at its discretion, choose not to confer the award if no submission is deemed of sufficient merit. The assessment panel's decision is final and not subject to appeal.

Common Eligibility (Applicable to Both Streams)

- The nominee must be an industry partner organisation (including government, professional, not-for-profit, or commercial entities) with an established collaboration with an AUBEA member institution.
- Collaboration must normally have been sustained for at least two years, unless clearly impactful within a shorter period (e.g. a major project).
- Contributions may relate to learning & teaching activities, curriculum co-design, work-integrated learning, research collaboration, or broader industry engagement.
- Nominations must be submitted by academic staff, with endorsement from the relevant institutional authority.
- The lead academic nominator must be registered for the AUBEA Annual Conference to be eligible to receive the award on behalf of the partnership.

C1: Learning & Teaching Collaboration

Application Guide

- The collaboration statement must address all three assessment criteria.
- The statement should include contributions from both the industry and academic partner.
- Each criterion should be supported by evidence of sustained impact (typically 2 or more years).
- Indicative word counts for each criterion are provided in the application form.
- The assessment panel's decision is final and not subject to appeal.
- AI tools may be used to assist with drafting or editing the collaboration statement, but the content must accurately reflect the genuine contributions of both the academic and industry partner. The statement should be reviewed and endorsed as accurate by both parties before submission. Assessors look for authentic, specific, and detailed accounts of the partnership's impact and mutual value — generic or impersonal descriptions may be rated less favourably.

Assessment Criteria

1. Impact on Student Learning and Employability (40%)

Criterion: Demonstrated impact in student learning outcomes, practical skill development, or work readiness.

Examples of practice:

- Work-integrated learning, internships, or industry projects.
- Use of real cases, sites, or simulations.
- Industry mentoring or guest-led teaching sessions.

Evidence may include:

- Student or graduate feedback.
- Graduate employment data linked to collaboration.
- Testimonials from academic staff or industry supervisors.

2. Co-creation and Innovation in Learning Design (35%)

Criterion: Collaborative development of curricula, teaching strategies, learning technologies, or authentic learning experiences.

Examples of practice:

- Joint development of curricula or assessments.
- Inclusion of emerging construction technologies (digital engineering, sustainability tools, AI, etc.).
- Industry input into accreditation or course review.

Evidence may include:

- Course content samples.
- Innovation adoption at program or institutional level.
- Endorsements from program directors or professional bodies.

3. Sustainability and Mutual Value (25%)

Criterion: Depth, longevity, and reciprocal benefit of the collaboration over time.

Examples of practice:

- Ongoing collaboration over multiple years or project cycles.
- Integration into teaching, research, or engagement activities.
- Demonstrated benefit to both industry and institution.

Evidence may include:

- A brief statement from the academic partner outlining duration and benefits of the collaboration.
- Records of repeated collaboration over time.
- Indication of planned or continued collaboration.

C2: Research and Knowledge Exchange Collaboration

Application Guide

- The collaboration statement must address all three assessment criteria.
- The statement should include contributions from both the industry and academic partner.
- Each criterion should be supported by evidence of sustained impact (typically 2 or more years).
- Indicative word counts for each criterion are provided in the application form.
- The assessment panel's decision is final and not subject to appeal.
- AI tools may be used to assist with drafting or editing the collaboration statement, but the content must accurately reflect the genuine contributions of both the academic and industry partner. The statement should be reviewed and endorsed as accurate by both parties before submission. Assessors look for authentic, specific, and detailed accounts of the partnership's impact and mutual value — generic or impersonal descriptions may be rated less favourably.

Assessment Criteria

1. Research Impact Beyond Academia (40%)

Criterion: Demonstrable change resulting from the collaboration in industry practice, policy, or community outcomes.

Examples of practice:

- Adoption or use of research outputs by industry or government agencies.
- Contribution to policy development, guidelines, or professional standards.
- Positive change in areas such as safety, efficiency, sustainability, or resilience.

Evidence may include:

- Concise impact case study (max. 1 page).
- Written endorsement from end-users or industry partners describing the change.
- High-level performance metrics or outcome summaries (where available).

2. Collaborative Innovation and Knowledge Production (35%)

Criterion: Effective co-creation of new knowledge, innovation, or research activity.

Examples of practice:

- Joint publications or co-developed tools, methods, or systems.
- Industry-supported research or active participation in funded projects.

- Collaborative delivery of demonstrations, pilots, workshops, or knowledge exchange.

Evidence may include:

- Grants or contracts and roles.
- Joint reports, patents, or technical documentation.
- Co-authored research or conference presentations.

3. Strategic and Sustainable Partnership (25%)

Criterion: Depth, longevity, strategic alignment, and ongoing value of collaboration.

Examples of practice:

- Clear alignment with institutional objectives or industry challenges.
- Growth in scale and scope over time.
- Cross-disciplinary or cross-institutional involvement.

Evidence may include:

- MOUs or long-term collaboration frameworks.
- Multi-year project timelines or renewal agreements.
- National or international recognition of the partnership.

Submission Requirements

1. **Completed application form** — including the nomination summary and collaboration statement addressing all assessment criteria for the chosen stream. The statement should include contributions from both the industry and academic partner.

2. **Letters of reference** — each letter max. one A4 page, commenting on the significance, credibility, and sector impact of the collaboration

Referee letters should reflect the referee's own genuine assessment of the nominee. AI tools may be used to assist with drafting or editing, but the content must accurately represent the referee's own views and be reviewed and endorsed by them before submission.

- Academic Referee — from the AUBEA member institution involved in the collaboration.
- Independent Referee — from a professional association, accreditation or regulatory body, or a senior industry professional who is independent of the nominated collaboration.

3. **Supporting materials** (optional)

- Up to 10 additional pages of supporting evidence, including case studies of joint projects, endorsements from students, staff or professional associations, and evidence of long-term collaboration (MOUs, project reports, event or program materials).
- A supplementary digital resource (e.g. website, video, or e-portfolio) may be included by providing the link in the designated field in the application form. Assessment will be based solely on the collaboration statement and supporting evidence pages — digital resources are supplementary and will not disadvantage nominees if not provided.