

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Te Tohu Kairangi Mātauranga Ahumahinga a Te Pirimia

THE PRIME MINISTER'S VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD 2020

WHAT IS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION?

Vocational education is education and training that has a special emphasis on the skills, knowledge and attributes required to perform a specific role or to work in a specific industry. This is not limited to the traditional trades or professions but can relate to any sector of the economy.

WHEN AND WHY WAS THE PRIME MINISTER'S VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD ESTABLISHED?

Students all over New Zealand excel in building their vocational knowledge and skills and the Prime Minister wants to recognise them for their success. Launched in 2019, the purpose of the Award is to celebrate the achievements of secondary students enrolled in vocational programmes, and to raise the status of vocational education so that more people see vocational education and training as an attractive option when they leave school.

WHO CAN NOMINATE A STUDENT?

Teachers of vocational programmes can nominate a student from their school or kura whom they believe is most deserving of the Award, using nomination criteria developed by the Ministry of Education. All nominations require the endorsement of the Principal. Students should talk to their teachers about how they can be considered for the Award.

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S VOCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD?

Top Year 12 or 13 students enrolled in vocational programmes can be nominated to receive the Award. Every state or state-integrated secondary school and wharekura can nominate only one student enrolled in a vocational programme to receive the Award.

WHAT ARE THE NOMINATION CRITERIA TO HELP OUR SCHOOL OR KURA IN ASSESSING POTENTIAL NOMINEES FOR THE AWARD?

The nomination criteria are included in this Information Pack, and reflect the skills and capabilities that enable students to thrive in higher vocational education, training and employment. These were developed by the Ministry, in consultation with industry and employers.

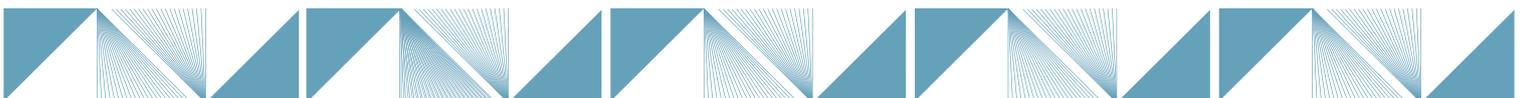
HOW DO I SEND OUR SCHOOL'S NOMINATION?

To nominate a student from your school or kura, complete the nomination form which is included in this Information Pack and email it to:

vocational.excellence@education.govt.nz.

The nomination form can also be downloaded from the website of the Prime Minister's Vocational Excellence Award: pmvea.education.govt.nz.

Please ensure only one student is nominated to receive the Award for your school or kura. The nomination must be endorsed and signed by your school's Principal, otherwise we will be unable to consider your application.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS *continued*

WHAT'S THE TIMELINE FOR THIS YEAR?

Nominations open on 27 July 2020 and close on 25 September.

We aim to send confirmations of Award winners by early October. Letters of congratulations will be mailed to schools and kura in time for your school's prize-giving ceremony. Students will also receive Award certificates and the prize money will be paid in October.

CAN A STUDENT WHO WON THE AWARD IN 2019 WIN IT AGAIN THIS YEAR?

Yes. It is up to schools or kura to nominate a student whom they believe is most deserving of the Award.

WHAT DO WINNING STUDENTS RECEIVE?

The Award rewards the top Year 12 or 13 student enrolled in vocational programmes of learning with a cash prize of \$2000 and an official certificate. The cash prize can be used at the student's discretion.

The Award is intended to be presented at your school's end-of-year prize-giving ceremony alongside other premier Awards such as the Dux and Proxime Accessit awards. If your school does not have an end-of-year prize-giving ceremony, your school can choose how best to celebrate your Award recipient's success.

HOW WILL THE PRIZE MONEY BE TRANSFERRED TO THE WINNING STUDENT?

The prize money will be paid to the school by the Ministry of Education. It is each school's responsibility to ensure that the prize is transferred to the winning student.

ARE WE ALLOWED TO NOMINATE OUR STUDENT TO RECEIVE THE AWARD IF THEY WERE UNABLE TO UNDERTAKE THE REQUIRED WORKPLACE LEARNING DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN?

Schools and kura can nominate students who might not have been able to complete planned workplace learning during the lockdown, provided these students continued to engage with their education throughout the school year, and were able to demonstrate the attributes of vocational excellence celebrated by the Award.

We recognise that COVID-19 has disrupted teaching and learning, and impacted some students more than others.

HOW WILL OUR SCHOOL KNOW IF OUR NOMINATED STUDENT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED?

Once your school's nomination has been processed, you will be sent confirmation of the Award winner.

A letter of congratulations will be sent to your school or kura in time for your prize-giving ceremony.

I HAVE A QUESTION RELATED TO THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR SCHOOL. WHO DO WE CONTACT?

For queries, you can email us at vocational.excellence@education.govt.nz.

WHERE CAN WE GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AWARD?

More information is available on our website: www.pmvea.education.govt.nz.

