



Submission Form for the AHECS Strategic Innovation Award 2026

Who we are seeking submissions from:

Member services who can show the effective design or redesign of the way in which a service is delivered in order to adapt to changes and/or meet new demands, whether institutional, regional or sector-wide. This can also include incorporating the use of new technologies.

Judges will be looking for **qualitative** and **quantitative** evidence against the criteria below:

- Demonstrable **innovation** in order to achieve better outcomes or make better use of resources **(250 words - 5 points)**
- Positive **outcomes/impact** for stakeholders and/or HE careers and employability sector (including stakeholder feedback, e.g., quotes) **(250 words - 5 points)**
- Demonstrable evidence of **creating value** to the organisation and/or sector that extends beyond expected timescales, initial aims and objectives **(250 words - 5 points)**
- **Establishing and sharing best practice** to ensure high standards or service delivery to stakeholders and collaborating within the group, service or across the sector **(250 words - 5 points)**

***points refer to the maximum number of points a judge can award to the question**

* Required

Photo: Please email admin@ahecs.ie with a jpeg photo/image relevant to your submission (collage image acceptable) which will represent your entry on social media.

Closing date is Monday 16th March 2026 @ 5pm. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

Any entry form that exceeds the word limit will not be accepted and your nomination will be withdrawn.

A minimum of two entries per category is required to proceed to judging stage

1. Title of Submission *

2. Name of AHECS member service(s) submitting *

- ☐ Collaboration Submission (please select all HEI's which are collaborating on this submission)
- ☐ Atlantic Technological University Donegal
- ☐ Atlantic Technological University Galway
- ☐ Atlantic Technological University Sligo
- ☐ Carlow College
- ☐ Dublin City University
- ☐ Dundalk Institute of Technology
- ☐ Institute of Art, Design and Technology
- ☐ Marino Institute of Education
- ☐ Maynooth University
- ☐ Munster Technological University Cork
- ☐ Munster Technological University Kerry
- ☐ National College of Art and Design
- ☐ National College of Ireland
- ☐ Open University
- ☐ Queens University Belfast
- ☐ Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- ☐ South East Technological University Carlow
- ☐ South East Technological University Waterford
- ☐ Trinity College Dublin
- ☐ Technological University Dublin
- ☐ Technological University of the Shannon Midlands Midwest
- ☐ University College Cork
- ☐ University College Dublin
- ☐ Ulster University
- ☐ University of Galway
- ☐ University of Limerick

3. **Names of individual(s) submitting (include name of HEI with individuals if collaborative submission) ***

4. **Name of individual(s) approving this submission (Head of Service) ***

5. **Please provide a summary (up to 250 words maximum) about your entry. This summary must be written in the 3rd person, stating the main points and results of your entry. If shortlisted, this description will be used in the Awards Booklet and social media so please only include information you are willing to share. ***

6. **Please confirm your word count for this section. Any entry form that exceeds the word limit will not be accepted and your nomination will be withdrawn. ***

Please enter a number less than or equal to 250

7. **I consent that this submission and supporting image can be used for AHECS marketing purposes which includes social media channels and Awards Directory. ***

☐ I consent

☐ I do not consent

CRITERIA

Address the criteria fully. Judges will be looking for qualitative and quantitative evidence against each of them.

8. **Demonstrable innovation in order to achieve better outcomes or make better use of resources (250 words - 5 points) ***

9. **Please confirm your word count for this section. Any entry form that exceeds the word limit will not be accepted and your nomination will be withdrawn. ***

Please enter a number less than or equal to 250

10. **Positive outcomes/impact for stakeholders and/or HE careers and employability sector (including stakeholder feedback, e.g., quotes) (250 words - 5 points) ***

11. **Please confirm your word count for this section. Any entry form that exceeds the word limit will not be accepted and your nomination will be withdrawn. ***

Please enter a number less than or equal to 250

12. **Demonstrable evidence of creating value to the organisation and/or sector that extends beyond expected timescales, initial aims and objectives (250 words and 5 points* maximum). ***

13. **Please confirm your word count for this section. Any entry form that exceeds the word limit will not be accepted and your nomination will be withdrawn. ***

Please enter a number less than or equal to 250

14. **Establishing and sharing best practice to ensure high standards or service delivery to stakeholders and collaborating within the group, service or across the sector (250 words - 5 points) ***

15. **Please confirm your word count for this section. Any entry form that exceeds the word limit will not be accepted and your nomination will be withdrawn. ***

Please enter a number less than or equal to 250

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