



2025

THE GRAND
BUSINESS SOUTH

AWARDS

THE
GRAND



ENTRY GUIDE & FAQs

SHARE YOUR BUSINESS'S STORY



HOW DO THE AWARDS WORK?

Entering The Grand Business South Awards has real benefits for your business, including:

- The opportunity to gain business exposure through the promotion of the Award winners.
- Increased profile and credibility in the Southern business community.
- Motivated staff, especially if you become a finalist!
- Attending our Awards' Gala Dinner and lead-up events gives you the opportunity to network with other business leaders and professionals.
- The chance to share your success with your team and the Southern business community.

In the application, we'll ask you to describe on one page why your business should win the award, using stories of success and achievement.

The finalists will then be invited to deliver a presentation to the panel of judges, concentrating on four main areas.

1. Leadership, planning and organisation.
2. Market and customer focus.
3. Differentiation and business model selection.
4. Results (e.g. revenue, profitability, investments, jobs created and other factors that show your international success.

Businesses may enter as many awards as they like but cannot enter any awards they have been a previous winner of.

Businesses that will do well tend to share common things. These include:

- The ability to give evidence-based answers that show you have a successful business.
- A well thought-out strategy.
- Strong leadership.
- Detailed understanding of your target markets and customers.
- The ability to show your contribution to the Southern economy, through solid financial results.

Finally, some tips for you as you embark upon your entry journey:

- Tell your story. Use pictures and graphics and try to include as many examples as possible to illustrate your points.
- Don't go into too much detail about your products or services, or overuse jargon and acronyms. Keep it simple, use plain English and above all, answer the question.
- Don't assume that judges will have any prior knowledge of your business.
- Avoid making vague or unsupported claims. Award-winning submissions always include data and evidence, because doing so ensures credibility and believability.

Business South has sole discretion to accept or decline an entry.

Good Luck!



AWARDS

Excellence in Service

Recognises businesses that succeed through showing consistent dedication to service delivery and demonstrate commitment to the customer through service policy, staff training and/or other specific means.

Excellence in Retail

Recognises success and achievement of businesses selling goods and/or services direct to the end user.

Excellence in Hospitality

Recognises the success of businesses whose principal activity is delivering an exceptional customer experience in the hospitality sector, executing hospitality customer strategies and setting the standard for those in their industry.

Excellence in Tourism

Recognises the success of businesses whose principal activity is delivering an exceptional customer experience in the tourism sector, executing tourism customer strategies and setting the standard for those in their industry.

Excellence in Marketing

Recognises businesses that have demonstrated exceptional strategies, campaigns, and initiatives to effectively promote their products or services, connect with their target audience, and achieve remarkable results. This award honors organisations that have showcased creativity, market insight, and a deep understanding of consumer behavior, contributing to their industry's growth and setting new standards of excellence in marketing practices.

Excellence in Customer Experience

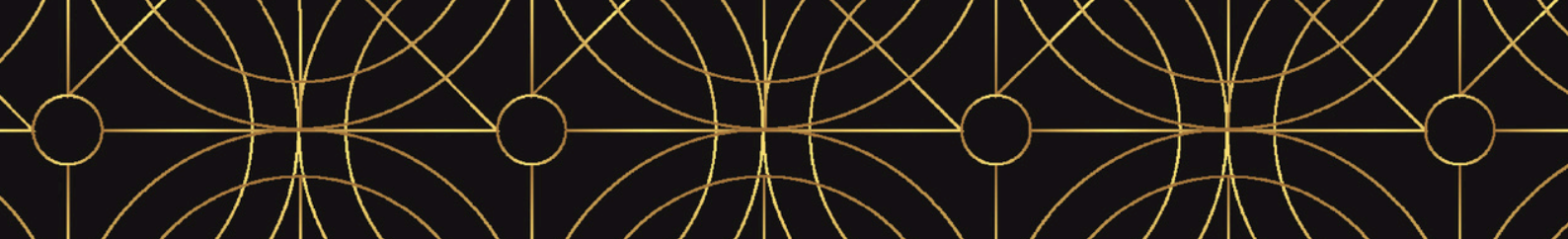
This award recognises organisations that consistently deliver exceptional customer experiences across all touchpoints. The winning organisation shows measurable impact in customer satisfaction and loyalty while fostering a customer-centric culture that turns customers into advocates.

Workplace Injury Prevention

Recognises businesses that have implemented a workplace injury prevention initiative, improvement or innovation that has had a meaningful and positive impact on the workplace through improved health, safety or wellbeing for their workers. The initiative, improvement or innovation could be a product, service, technology, process, behavioural shift in the business, re-design of workplace environment, leadership development, and/or Te Ao Māori or cultural practice change.

Excellence in Manufacturing

This award recognises organisations that demonstrate outstanding achievement in manufacturing operations through superior quality, efficiency, and innovation. Recipients excel in optimising production processes, maintaining exceptional quality standards, and implementing cutting-edge technologies or methodologies that drive operational excellence.



Excellence in Exporting

This award recognises organisations that have achieved outstanding success in international markets through strategic export initiatives and global business excellence. Recipients demonstrate exceptional performance in expanding into new markets, building strong international partnerships, and adapting products or services to meet diverse global customer needs.

Excellence in Science & Technology

Recognises businesses that are achieving exceptional breakthroughs and advancements in their field. It involves rigorous research, cutting-edge techniques, and groundbreaking inventions that have a significant impact on society. It encompasses pushing the boundaries of knowledge in science, applying scientific knowledge to create practical solutions in technology, and introducing novel ideas and methods through innovation. Excellence in these areas drives progress, economic growth, and improves the quality of life for people worldwide.

Excellence in Sustainability

Recognises a business that demonstrates how sustainable practices embedded into the organisational strategy and operations, deliver sustainable business growth.

Excellence in Innovation

This award recognises organisations that demonstrate exceptional creativity and forward-thinking through groundbreaking innovations that create significant value or solve important challenges. Recipients excel in developing novel products, services, processes, or technologies that push industry boundaries and deliver measurable impact to customers, communities, or markets.

Excellence Strategy & Planning

This award recognises organisations that demonstrate exceptional strategic thinking and execution through comprehensive planning processes that drive sustainable business success. Recipients excel in developing clear, actionable strategies, effectively anticipating market trends and challenges, and successfully implementing plans that achieve measurable organisational goals.

Excellence Best Emerging Business

This award recognises new or early-stage businesses that demonstrate exceptional potential and achievement in their formative years through innovative business models, strong market traction, and outstanding leadership. Recipients show remarkable growth, adaptability, and resilience while establishing a solid foundation for sustainable success in their industry or market segment.



SPECIAL AWARDS

Entrepreneur of the Year

An individual who has turned a vision into a successful enterprise displaying bravery, discipline leadership and adaptability. A unique thinker with a future focus.

Distinguished Leader | Dunedin City Council

Honours a high-achieving individual. This individual has made exceptional and distinctive contributions to business, particularly in the Otago region.

People's Choice

All finalists will be eligible for the People's Choice Award, which is open to the public to vote for their favourite business.

The Grand Supreme Business of the Year | The Grand

All businesses in the awards are eligible for this category. The winner of this award is selected by the judges from the winners of each category.



SUBMITTING AN ENTRY

We require submission of all applications and nominations through our online application portal at:
<https://businesssouthawards.awardsplatform.com/>

Please visit the portal and create an account to get started.

- You can save your entries in the portal and edit them as often as needed, up until the entry deadline. Please remember to save your work as you go.
- Make sure your personal details are entered accurately, including your contact details.
- You can enter multiple awards, as long as you meet the criteria for each one.
- You can use the 'copy' feature to duplicate existing entries and edit them to suit a new award (instead of starting each one from scratch).
- There are no entry fees for the Grand Business South Awards.
- Supporting material such as images or graphs may be supplied within your application. You'll find further details in the portal.
- We hold all information you provide on a commercial-in-confidence basis.

CRITICAL DATES

- **Entries close:** Monday, 14 July 2025
- **Judging takes place:** 1 to 15 August 2025 (please be available to be interviewed by the judges)
- **Finalists will be announced:** end of August 2025
- **Awards night:** Monday 20 November 2025.

For general enquiries please contact:

Email: info@business-south.org.nz

Phone: 03 479 0181

Website: <https://business-south.org.nz/businessawards>



FAQS

When are entries due?

Entry forms must be completed and submitted by **Monday, 14 July 2025**.

Does a business have to be nominated to enter?

No, all businesses and not-for-profit organisations can enter themselves.

What happens if I nominate a business or charity?

If you would like to nominate someone for an award, please email their business name, contact details and why they deserve to be nominated to: info@business-south.org.nz

Nominations are confidential, but you are welcome to let the business know you've made the nomination and encourage them to enter. We know that a nomination can be a really great way to encourage an entry. Sometimes "tall poppy syndrome" means that a business won't enter unless they are nominated by an external party who can see what a great job they are doing.

How many awards can businesses enter?

Businesses may enter as many awards as they like but cannot enter any awards they have been a previous winner of. All entrants are eligible for The Grand Supreme Business Excellence Award.

How does a business choose which award to enter?

Many businesses will be eligible for multiple awards. You should choose the award that most suits the emphasis you wish to highlight in your entry.

Can I submit further information with my entry?

No, your entry should be submitted via our online entry form and include the information requested. Entries in other formats and supporting information can be viewed by the judges if you are selected for an interview. We recommend you adhere to the word limits provided.

Is there a cost to enter?

There is no cost to enter The Grand Business South Awards. We do encourage you to purchase tickets to attend the Gala Dinner on 20 November 2025.

When will the finalists be known?

The judges may contact your business to clarify any details on your entry or to gain additional information. The judges reserve the right to reassign entries into alternative categories. The judges reserve the right to decide on the number of finalists for each award based on the quality of entrants.

All finalists will be contacted to attend an interview. Judges will conduct interviews in August and finalists will be announced at the end of August. The judges' decision is final, and correspondence will not be entered into.

The winners will be announced at the Awards ceremony and dinner on 20 November 2025.