Frequently Asked Questions

UNSW Innovation Awards 2014

Q. What is innovation?

Innovation = “Something new that creates value”.

It is the implementation of a new idea to create value not just the idea itself. Value can be anything in the eyes of the person receiving it; financial, health benefits, happiness, time savings etc etc.

Q. So there are three core categories. What’s the difference?

The three categories represent the stage of development of the innovation:

**Early stage**: You have identified a great innovation opportunity and have a good idea for a project to go after it. You have done some desk research and have prepared a project plan.

**Advanced**: You have started your research to develop the innovation and are well on the way to proving the concept.

**Innovation Impact**: You have successfully developed your innovation to a stage where it is delivering value to the economy or society. Value could be financial, time savings, health benefits or any other value that creates a positive impact.
Q. What’s the difference between the “Student Entrepreneur of the Year” and “UNSW Student Innovator of the Year” awards?

The “Student Entrepreneur of the Year” winner will be selected from ALL student teams who have been working with the NSi Student Entrepreneur Development program (in the 12months to 30th June) to develop student-led startup companies.

The “UNSW Student Innovator of the Year” winner will be selected from ALL student-lead teams, who have entered applications into the UNSW Innovation Awards categories, and who are working with NSi to develop IP-based innovations (but not startups).

Q. Who are the judges?

We don’t disclose the names of the judging panel, other than the panel Chairperson (Professor Les Field, DVC(R) UNSW). However, the panel typically consists of selected internal and external directors of NSi, plus at least one independent external judge.

Q. What technical level should I write the application in?

The key to this is to put yourself in the judges position. They are smart people, who are quick to understand concepts. However, they may not necessarily be in the same field as you. So please write with this in mind. Also be mindful of the fact that the judges will have to review a large number of applications. So, keep to the point and be clear and concise! Make sure you have easy to understand objective evidence for your statements where possible. Share your passion too. Judges love this!

Q. If I have a question – who do I contact?

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