

# RUSU<sup>+</sup> STUDENT LIFE AWARDS 2026<sup>+</sup>

## NOMINATION GUIDE

In 2026, the Student Life Awards recognise impact, leadership, and lasting contribution.

### ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for an award, the following criteria apply:

#### Club Award Categories:

- The nominee must be a current Club, Society, or Collective affiliated with RUSU or RMIT.
- Political clubs are not eligible for this award.
- Nominations must be submitted by a current RMIT student. Staff members are not eligible to submit a nomination.
- Collaborative club activities or events are eligible; if selected, the award will be shared equally among the clubs involved.
- For the 'Best Activity or Event' and 'Best Community Contribution' categories, the activity, event or initiative must have taken place within the past 12 months.
- For the 'Best New Club' category, the club must have been established within the past 12 – 18 months.

#### Individual Award Categories:

- The nominee must be enrolled as a current student at RMIT University.
- A nominee may be nominated for multiple awards; however, they may receive only one award per year.
- A nominee may be a current RMIT student who is also employed by RMIT (e.g. Student Connect or the RMIT Store).

These rules ensure the awards recognise current student contributions within the relevant period.

## WHO CAN SUBMIT A NOMINATION?

### Nominations may be submitted by:

- The nominee themselves (self-nomination)
- Another RMIT student
- Club executives
- RMIT students employed by RMIT

Anonymous nominations will not be accepted, as judges may need to verify information provided in the nomination.

RMIT staff may support and encourage nominations by providing a letter of support for inclusion in the evidence section; however, staff are not eligible to submit nominations.

### Ineligible nominators / nominees include:

- Current RUSU staff members, including casual student staff
- Current Student Union Council (SUC) representatives for RUSU, RMITV, or Catalyst multiple

## WHAT MAKES A STRONG NOMINATION?

### Before submitting, check that your nomination clearly explains:

- What the nominee did (specific actions or initiatives)
- Why it mattered to students or the RMIT community
- What changed as a result of their contribution
- Who benefited and how many people were impacted (where possible)
- Evidence of results, such as numbers, testimonials, or examples

### Example of a weak vs strong nomination statement"

- Weak example: *"They organised many great events and worked really hard for the club."*
- Stronger example: *"They organised six events across the semester, increasing average attendance from 20 students to over 70. They also introduced a new mentorship program that paired 30 first-year students with senior members."*

When completing a nomination, students should clearly distinguish between activities undertaken as paid work and those completed in a volunteer capacity, ensuring the nominee's voluntary contributions are accurately represented.

## SELECTION PROCESS

- Nominations are assessed by a judging panel. The judging panel is made up of staff members across RUSU and RMIT, and includes RUSU Student Representatives
- Final decisions are not appealable

## KEY DATES

Entries open:	Wednesday 13th May w
Entries close:	Thursday 2nd July
Judging period:	Monday 6th July to Wednesday 29th July
Finalists notified:	Tuesday 4th August
Student Life Awards event:	Tuesday 18th August