The Queen’s Awards for Enterprise 2016

How to enter
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The Queen’s Awards for Enterprise 2016

Some of our 2015 winners

Aqua Cooling
Camira Group
Floortex Europe
Curo
Development Trust
Hotter Shoes
Lambdatek
Introduction to The Queen’s Awards for Enterprise

The Queen’s Awards for Enterprise (QAE), is the UK’s most prestigious business Award for British companies. It recognises UK businesses for driving growth and innovation, and promoting exports. There are three categories of Award for organisations, and one for individuals.

• Innovation
• International Trade
• Sustainable Development

The Awards are bestowed each year by Her Majesty The Queen.

These Awards are valid for 5 years.

For individuals

The Queen’s Award for Enterprise Promotion is a separate Award for individuals. It’s open to people who have played an outstanding role in promoting enterprise skills and attitudes.

Entry is by nomination only. This Award is valid for life.

The benefits of the Awards

The Queen’s Awards for Enterprise, and the Awards Emblem, is a trust mark that provides immediate and long-term business benefits. The use of the prestigious Awards Emblem is a recognised third party endorsement that will get your business noticed, above and beyond the competition.

Winning an Award can provide global recognition that your company is outstanding in its field, as well as boosting staff morale, and could even lead to an increase in sales:

• 76% of previous winners reported that the Award had brought added commercial value to their business
• 73% reported a boost to staff engagement

History of the Awards

The Award has, in various iterations, been around since 1965. The Queen’s Award to Industry, the scheme’s original title, was instituted by Royal Warrant in 1965, and first awarded in 1966. The Award was first established to recognise achievements in exports or technological innovation.

Now known as The Queen’s Awards for Enterprise, these business Awards are given for innovation, international trade and sustainable development; they are announced on 21 April, the Queen’s birthday.
How to apply

It is simple, easy and free to apply for a QAE Award. Almost all UK business can apply and the application process is free and straightforward. The minimum entry criteria is a business with two full-time employees and a track record of outstanding commercial success over two or three years.

All applications to be made online; you may apply for more than one application or category

The application process

2. Complete the eligibility questionnaire
   • This is to ensure that your organisation meets the key eligibility criteria for an Award
   • It will take about 10 minutes to complete and requires your details and organisation details
   • This stage also allows you to add a collaborator, where your colleagues will be able to sign in and contribute. This can be your marketing agency.
3. Complete the form
   • The form can be completed in a day or over a number of days
   • You can save and return to the form at any point
4. Submit your application
   • The deadline for submissions is 30 September 2015 at 23:59. However, we recommend starting early to maximize your application.

The Award categories

The Queen’s Awards for Enterprise are Awards for outstanding achievement by UK businesses in three categories; innovation, international trade and sustainable development. There is also an Award for individuals.

Innovation: Winners demonstrate that their business has substantially improved in areas of performance and commercial success by either outstanding innovation, continued over at least 2 years, or continuous innovation and development over at least 5 years.

International trade: Winners demonstrate that their business has achieved substantial growth in overseas earnings and in commercial success (for their business size and sector) through either outstanding achievement over 3 years or continuous achievement over 6 years.

Sustainable development: Winners demonstrate commercially successful products, services or approaches to management (a minimum of one area) which have major benefits for the environment, society and the wider economy, either by outstanding advance over at least 2 years or continuous achievement over 5 years.

The Queen’s Award for Enterprise Promotion recognises individuals who have played an outstanding role in promoting the growth of business enterprise and/or entrepreneurial skills in others.
Eligibility for organisations

To enter any of the Queen’s Awards for Enterprise categories, your organisation must:

- Be based in the UK (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man)
- Be a self-contained enterprise that markets its own products/services
- Have at least 2 full-time UK employees or part-time equivalents

Each of the 3 organisation Award categories has additional entry criteria, which can be seen below:

1. Innovation
To apply for the Innovation Award, you must:
- Have an innovation that has not been seen before
- Have had your innovation available on the market for at least 2 years
- Have recovered all the investments made in your innovation
- Show outstanding commercial success as a result of innovation over 2 years - or continuous commercial success over 5 years

Your innovation should be in one of the following categories:
- Invention, design or production of goods
- Performance of services
- Marketing and distribution
- After-sale support of goods or services

2. International Trade
To apply for the International Trade Award, you must:
- Have made a minimum of £100,000 in overseas sales in the first year of your entry and show year-on-year growth
- Show that your organisation has achieved outstanding growth in overseas earnings relative to your business size and sector
- Show steep year-on-year growth (without dips) in overseas sales over 3 years - or substantial year-on-year growth (without dips) over 6 years

3. Sustainable Development
To apply for the Sustainable Development Award you must:
- Show how your business has achieved sustainable development by reflecting the main points of your company strategy (financial, social, environmental)
- Show outstanding commercial success through sustainable development over 2 years - or continuous commercial success over 5 years

Your achievements should be in one of the following categories:
- Invention, design or production of goods
- Performance of services
- Marketing and distribution
- After-sale support of goods or services
- Management of resources or relationships with people and other organisations
Eligibility for individuals

The Queen’s Award for Enterprise Promotion is a separate Award for individuals. It’s open to people who have played an outstanding role in promoting enterprise skills and attitudes. Entry is by nomination only.

This Award is valid for life.

Anyone can make a nomination.

To be nominated for the Queen’s Award for Enterprise Promotion, an individual must:

• Contribute more than just the requirements of their paid job or main activity to the promotion of business enterprise or entrepreneurial skills (or both)

• Be active in the role or area they’re being nominated for, and have been for at least 2 years

• Have made their contribution to enterprise promotion in the UK (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man)

• Not currently hold a Queen’s Award For Enterprise Promotion (although previously unsuccessful nominees can be nominated again), and not have been awarded honours for enterprise promotion by Her Majesty the Queen

You cannot nominate yourself for this Award.

Nominees should not be told about the nomination unless it’s successful.
Key dates for the diary

2015
April 21 – 30 September
All online entry and nomination forms for 2016 are available at https://www.gov.uk/queens-awards-for-enterprise
We also have numerous social media profiles that will provide all the information you need, including our LinkedIn group, blog, YouTube channel and Twitter account.

July
The 2015 winners and recipients attend a Buckingham Palace reception, hosted by Her Majesty the Queen.

30 August
One month to go until deadline day. Get your entries in now!

30 September
Deadline for 2016 entries and nominations

November & December
Shortlisted organisations are contacted. For due diligence they must provide an external accountant’s certificate by January.
*Nominators for the Enterprise Promotion Award are not contacted at this stage.

2016
March
Winning organisations and individuals are notified.

April
Unsuccessful organisations receive feedback on their applications. Nominators for the Queen’s Award for Enterprise Promotion are told whether their nomination was successful.

21 April
2016 winners are announced and the 2017 Awards open for entries.

July
Two representatives of the winning organisations, or winning individuals and their nominators, attend a Buckingham Palace reception hosted by Her Majesty The Queen.

*This may incur a small charge from your accountant
Quotes

Want to hear from previous winners?

“The Queen’s Awards for Enterprise is the UK’s highest official accolade for business success and has been supporting British industry for 50 years. There were over 140 recipients of a Queen’s Award for this year, and that is a demonstration of the quality, diversity and tenacity of UK businesses.

Companies that are growing, innovating and championing UK business overseas deserve the recognition that these Awards bestow; they demonstrate that innovative and entrepreneurial spirit is well and truly present in British industry. I’m delighted that over 140 UK businesses have been successful in 2015, and I hope to see that number rise still further in the years to come.”

Rt. Hon Sajid Javid  |  Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills

“I am immensely proud of the whole team for winning one of the highest honours a company can receive. It is a true recognition of how everyone working together can make a real difference to the people of Wales.”

Mathew Milsom  |  Managing Director, Wales Millennium Centre, Sustainable Development winner 2015

“This is the pinnacle of achievement in terms of recognition for our proactive stance putting sustainable development at the very heart of our business model. “It not only gives us a unique competitive advantage, but it’s great for our wider stakeholders and the communities in which we work and do business.”

Steve Bullas  |  Chief Executive, Camira Group, International Trade winner 2014

“Since winning the Award, our sales have increased 20% and our staff numbers have gone up by 25%. Winning this Award has given the whole team an extra boost and is leading to more success for us.”

David Hymers  |  Managing Director, Total Post, International Trade Winner 2013

“Receiving a Queen’s Award for Enterprise is such an honour, not just for me personally, but to the company as a whole. It recognises the contribution made by all of our employees on a daily basis to put Aqua on the map as a global market leader in the data centre field.”

Dr Christopher Winchester  |  Managing Director, Aqua Cooling Solutions, Innovation Winner 2015

“I am really thrilled and honoured to have been recognised for this Award, news of which came as a huge surprise to me. My work is geared to helping people to start and sustain businesses and to become better business leaders to create and safeguard jobs. It is satisfying to know that I have helped to create businesses and sustain hundreds of jobs over the years, which are vital to families and communities.”

Carmel Gahan  |  Lifetime Achievement Award 2012
What media could you expect to see?

In the past, winners have benefitted from excellent local and national attention, including radio and broadcast. Just look at some of the examples below.
Contact us

For more information:
Visit our website https://www.gov.uk/queens-awards-for-enterprise
Call the Queen's Awards Office on 020 7215 6880
Email info@queensawards.org.uk
Or follow us on Twitter @TheQueensAwards

Please feel free to contact us should you have any queries.
We would be more than happy to assist you at any point during the application process.