

## **YOUNG ENGINEER AWARDS 2026 - NOMINATION FORM GUIDANCE NOTES**

The Young Engineer awards are presented in three categories: Craft Apprentice, Student Apprentice and Professional.

To qualify for nomination in the **Craft Apprentice Young Engineer** category, the candidate must be 23 years of age or less on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2026 and have proven engineering experience as appropriate to their field of work and primarily be working in the workshop or in the field on hands-on engineering or maintenance-based tasks.

To qualify for nomination in the **Student Apprentice Young Engineer** category the candidate must be 25 years of age or less on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2026 and have proven experience on engineering projects as appropriate to their field of work. They should spend most of their time working outside the workshop in a less hands-on role, have a level of responsibility commensurate with that of a student apprentice engineer and have, or be working towards, a formal qualification in engineering or a related subject.

To qualify for nomination in the **Professional Young Engineer** category the candidate must be 30 years of age or less on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2026 and have a formal qualification in an Engineering or related subject. The candidate will be working in a professional role with engineering/technical responsibilities and experience commensurate with that of a professional engineer.

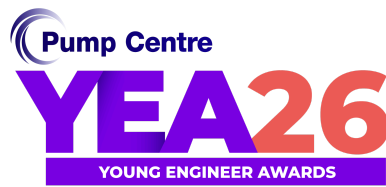
In each category, the candidate must submit a completed nomination form. In the second stage, all candidates will be required to submit up to 10 photographs and 3 videos that show yourself, your work, and your achievements. These are to be emailed to [marketing@pumpcentre.com](mailto:marketing@pumpcentre.com).

The selection process will comprise two stages. The first stage comprises an assessment of the nomination forms and attachments to draw up a list of finalists. **Nominators and Nominees should therefore ensure that they complete ALL sections of the nomination form and, together with the attachments, include sufficient information to allow the judges to accurately assess their applications.** The nomination forms and attachments will be the only things the judges will have available to draw up a short-list of finalists. It should be noted that **marks are awarded for each completed section of the nomination form**. It is therefore essential that all sections are completed.

In the second stage, all finalists will be invited for an interview and to give a presentation. The outcome of this process will be the selection of the Award winners. More details of the stage two process will be supplied to the finalists.

### **Eligibility for nomination**

1. The competition is open to employees of Pump Centre member companies and employees of non-member companies who work closely with Pump Centre member companies (e.g. contractors, consultants etc.).



2. All nominations must be endorsed by a representative from a Pump Centre member company.
3. Each Pump Centre member company can nominate or endorse up to 2 young engineers in each award category.
4. The endorser and nominator can be the same person.
5. The nominator must have known the nominee in a working capacity for at least one year (e.g. manager, team leader, foreman etc.). The nominator does not have to be an employee of a Pump Centre member company.
6. The nomination form must be completed in full by the nominee, nominator and, for non-members, be endorsed by a Pump Centre Member.

## Selection Process

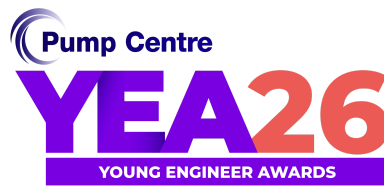
The selection of the award winner in each category will be carried out in two stages.

### **STAGE 1**

The first stage will be carried out by an independent panel of judges who will assess the nomination forms and select a short-list of finalists to go through to the second stage. The judging panel will include professionally qualified members with wide experience.

Please note.

1. All nomination forms must be submitted online **on or before Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.**
2. ALL sections of the nomination forms should be completed with sufficient information to provide the judges with an accurate and complete picture of the Nominee's achievements. No other information will be available to the judges other than what is included in the nomination form.
3. All valid nomination forms will be circulated to the judging panel immediately after the closing date for submissions.
4. The judging panel members will award each candidate a score, based on the nomination form responses and the following competences:
  - General technical knowledge & understanding
  - Problem solving
  - Leadership and professionalism
  - Communication skills
  - Quality of work
5. The Pump Centre will collate the scores from each judging panel member and announce in early January 2026 the short-listed candidates in each category who will progress to Stage 2.
6. All applicants will be notified of the outcome at this stage.



## **STAGE 2**

1. The shortlisted candidates in each category will be asked to give a short presentation (maximum 15 minutes) followed by a 15-minute interview in front of a judging panel.
2. The presentations & interviews will be carried out virtually on the **24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2026**. Full details of the process and timings will be provided for the short-listed candidates.
3. The presentations & interviews will be videoed. The video footage may be used on the Pump Centre website and / or at the Water Equipment Show conference dinner awards ceremony.
4. The judges will select the winning candidate in each category and all the candidates will be informed of the result by mid/end of March 2026.

## **Awards and Prizes**

The awards and prizes will be presented at the Water Equipment Show conference dinner to be held at the Telford International Centre during the evening of **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026**.

The winning candidates will each receive the following.

- A commemorative trophy.
- A gift voucher for £250.
- One Pump Centre training course of the winner's choice up to the value of £500.
- An invitation for the winner and a guest to attend the Water Equipment Show Conference Dinner Awards Ceremony.
- Unlimited use of the winner's title in their signature footer (NB wording and graphic to be provided by and agreed with the Pump Centre prior to use. The signature footer will include the year of the award).
- A feature article in the Pump Centre publications.
- For each winner's company a £350 reduction on their Pump Centre membership for the following membership year. (NB this is for Pump Centre membership only and cannot be used for WIMES, WIMWG or other Pump Centre related projects, services, and products. If a company has more than one winner, then the amount will be multiplied by the number of winners).
- For the winner's company, use of the winner's award and title in their publicity material. (NB wording and graphic to be provided by and agreed with the Pump Centre prior to use. The wording and or graphic is to include the year of award).

In addition, the winning candidates and all short-listed finalists will receive an invitation to the Water Equipment Show conference dinner and Awards ceremony.

*\*Photographs and video taken prior to and following the awards ceremony and details of all winning candidates may be used for press and publicity purposes.*

## **Nominations**



All Nominations must comply with the following requirements

1. Nominations must be made using the online form.
2. The competition is open to Employees of Pump Centre member companies and Employees of non-member companies who work closely with Pump Centre member companies (e.g. contractors, consultants etc.).
3. Nominations must be endorsed by a representative from a Pump Centre member company.
4. Each Pump Centre member company can nominate or endorse up to 2 young engineers in each award category
5. The endorser and nominator can be the same person.
6. The nominator must have known the nominee in a working capacity for at least one year (e.g. manager, team leader, foreman etc.). The nominator does not have to be an employee of a Pump Centre member company.
7. The nomination form must be completed in full by the nominee and nominator. For non-members the nomination form must be endorsed by a Pump Centre Member.
8. All forms must be submitted through the Pump Centre website **on or before Friday 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2025**. Nomination forms received after this date will not be considered.

## Timescales

The timescales for the Young Engineer Awards 2026 are as follows:

1. Nomination forms to be completed and submitted by **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2025**.
2. Stage 1 Judging (assessment of nomination forms and selection of finalists) will be completed by Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January **2026**.
3. The short-listed finalists will be notified and provided with further details about the Stage 2 interviews in early January **2026**.  
Please note: It is a condition of entry to the competition that all nominees, if selected as finalists, must undertake to be available and attend the stage 2 interview process.
4. Stage 2 interviews will take place virtually using Microsoft Teams on the **25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2026**.
5. Candidates will be informed of the outcome of the interviews by **mid/end of March 2026**.
6. The official announcement of the winners will take place on the **14<sup>th</sup> of May 2026** at the Water Equipment Show conference dinner



## Nomination Forms – IMPORTANT - Please Note

The online nomination form should be completed by the Nominee and the Nominator. Note that responses to questions are ***limited to a maximum of approximately 400 words.***

You should ensure that sufficient information is provided in response to every question as finalists are chosen using **only** the information provided on the nomination form. Marks are allocated for the answer to **every** question. Candidates and sponsors should therefore ensure that all questions are answered.

The Pump Centre reserves the right not to consider incomplete or incorrectly completed nomination forms.

The Pump Centre's decision on all matters relating to the Young Engineers Awards and awards process is final.

At various stages throughout the award process photographs and videos will be taken of all the candidates. By entering the award, you are giving consent for the Pump Centre to use these images for press and publicity purposes.