Railway Technical Society of Australasia (RTSA)

2021 RTSA POSTGRADUATE THESIS AWARD

Application Form

The RTSA Postgraduate Thesis Award will be awarded by Engineers Australia's Railway Technical Society of Australasia (RTSA) to the author of an outstanding doctoral or research masters on a topic concerned with the railway industry.

If an award is made for a PhD Thesis, the recipient shall receive a prize comprising a payment of AUD5,000 or NZD equivalent; one complimentary CORE Conference registration plus travel and accommodation; complementary RTSA membership for one year and a framed certificate. At its discretion the Awards Sub-Committee may make up to three awards in any one year.

At its discretion the RTSA Awards Sub-Committee may also make an award to a Research Masters Thesis. The recipient shall receive a prize comprising a payment of AUD3000 or NZD equivalent; one complimentary CORE Conference registration plus travel and accommodation; complementary RTSA membership for one year and a framed certificate.

Any winner of the award will be expected to attend to receive the prize at a suitable University function or RTSA Chapter meeting.

AWARD CONDITIONS

To be eligible for the above award the following conditions apply:

- The work reported in the thesis shall have been undertaken in Australia or New Zealand by an author for a Doctor of Philosophy (PHD) or a Research Masters thesis completed during either 2018, 2019 or 2020. The thesis can be about any topic concerned with the rail industry.
- The RTSA Awards Sub-Committee will judge theses nominated and, provided a suitable nomination is received, the award may be made each year.
- Nominations for the 2021 RTSA Postgraduate Thesis Award will close on **Sunday, 6 December 2020**. Nominations must be submitted online at www.engineersaustralia.org.au/About-Us/Awards/Open-For-Nomination by the above closing date. The application form is also is available from the RTSA website at www.rtsa.com.au.
- The nominated author must have been primarily responsible for the preparation of the thesis and, this, along with the thesis meeting the university's requirements for completion of the award of the degree, shall be confirmed in writing by the thesis supervisor at the student's university.
- The nomination requires the approval of the author and thesis supervisor at the student's University and shall be accompanied by a 200 word abstract together with an electronic copy (pdf format) of the thesis.
- In addition to the 200-word abstract, the nomination shall also be accompanied by a written statement of up to 500 words, also approved by the thesis supervisor and which addresses each of the six Judging Criteria that can be found at the foot of page 2 of 2. This written statement will be used as part of the process of review that will be used to select the successful candidate.
- Award Winners are strongly encouraged to prepare and present a poster presentation on their thesis at the next CORE Conference after their award. For the 2021 RTSA Railway Engineering Postgraduate Thesis Award, this will be at CORE 2021 to be held in Perth from 21 June to 23 June 2021. Award Winners will be notified by the RTSA Awards Sub-Committee in late March 2021 and supplied with a poster presentation template. Draft poster presentations will be required to be submitted to the RTSA Awards Subcommittee by latest Friday 9th April 2021 for re-view and printing prior to CORE 2021.

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- The author shall also agree that the RTSA may publish any abstract for which a prize is awarded and use details of the award in any RTSA or related publications.
- All students making an application, and their respective supervisors, shall agree to accept as final the decision of the RTSA Awards Sub-Committee as to whether or not the project is deemed to be a railway engineering project; whether or not any award is made; and that no correspondence shall be entered into. Students shall also agree that the RSTA Awards Sub-Committee may make inquiries of their University regarding the thesis.
- Applicants shall advise any change of contact details which may occur between the time of their sub-mission and receipt of final advice on judging or award of prizes.

JUDGING CRITERIA

To assist candidates to assemble appropriate information for the consideration of the judging panel, listed below are details of the judging criteria (equally weighted) that are used as part of the process of evaluation of nominations:

- Detail and accuracy of problem definition.
- Level of literature review, referencing and the use of related published work in the field.
- Degree of innovation on problem solution and contribution to knowledge of railways.
- Level of experimental work, modeling and/or simulation.
- Applicability of research to current railway-related problems.
- Peer reviewed publications in outstanding journals in the related field and/or presentations in railway-related conferences.

APPLICATIONS

Applications for the 2021 RTSA Postgraduate Thesis Award will close **Sunday, 6 December 2020**

The application shall submit online at www.engineersaustralia.org.au/About-Us/Awards/Open-For-Nominationbe and accompanied by:

- a copy of the nominee's current CV;
- a full copy of the thesis;
- a written statement of up to 500 words, also approved by the thesis supervisor and which addresses each of the six Judging Criteria. This written statement will be used as part of the process of review that will be used to select the successful candidate.
- abstract (approx 200 words) of the thesis;
- thesis supervisor, head of school, or Dean contact details and reference;
- official mark awarded by the University for this thesis (if you do not have access to this at the time of submission, you can provide this at a later date):
- 100 words biography (optional)
- Headshot (optional)

If you have any questions, Please contact:

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