

Generation Next Awards Application 2026

Application Form

Thank you for your interest in applying for the Generation Next Awards 2026.

To support a valid entry, before completing this application please carefully read the accompanying guidelines for applying.

Please note:

- Applications are limited to a maximum of 2,000 words.
- This award is designed to recognise individuals, not businesses.
- Applicants must be under the age of 40 as of the Generation Next Awards ceremony on **15 October 2026**
- Each applicant may apply for no more than two award categories.
- Eligibility requires applicants to be members of the East Midlands Chamber.
- The application form can be completed either by the applicant themselves or by someone else on their behalf.
- Additional materials, such as portfolios, testimonials, two-minute videos, images, or reports, are encouraged to support applications. These must be submitted by the application deadline. These could be submitted as a separate file.
- Please ensure you attached a headshot with your application.
- The final page of the application is for judging purposes only.
- Applications must be submitted no later than **10am Monday, 29 June 2026.**

How to submit your application form

- Please save your completed form as a word document using the format yourfullname_awardcategory.doc (Example:MyName_FutureLeaderAward.doc) and WeTransfer your application form and any additional supporting material to gennext@emc-dnl.co.uk.
- A maximum of five attachments (e.g. photos, testimonials) may be included with the entry form. These attachments must be image files (jpg, gif, png or tif) and must not exceed 5MB in total. Any attachments that exceed the permitted allowance or exceed the permitted file size will not be accepted.

If you have any queries, please contact the East Midlands Chamber Generation Next Team on
Tel: 0333 320 0333 (opt 2) or Email: gennext@emc-dnl.co.uk

Generation Next Awards Application 2026

Entrant details

Name of entrant(s) / nominee	
Award category	
Job title	
Company name (if applicable)	
Company address	
Email address	
Company website (if applicable)	
Number of employees (if applicable)	
Telephone number	
Business sector	
Nature of business	
Name of person nominating if nomination on behalf of the entrant	

Question 1

Please provide a brief biography about yourself and an overview of your business. Include details about the products or services you offer, your target customers, and the markets that you operate in.

In your response, please ensure you:

- Attach a headshot in JPEG format.
- Share links to your company's website and personal webpage.
- Include information on your business's financial performance, if relevant.

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Please note* By submitting this description, you agree that it may be used for marketing purposes, including but not limited to the event programme and social media platforms. It is your responsibility to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the submitted content. The Chamber will not be held liable for making any amendments to the submitted material. Please review your submission carefully before providing it.

Question 2

Please explain the reasons why you are entering this award and why you feel you should win.

Think about:

- **Your business journey:** What inspired you to start your business and the key moments in your journey so far.
- **Challenges and resilience:** Obstacles you faced during the early stages and how you overcame them.
- **Lessons and practices:** Insights or practices developed that now guide your business operations.
- **Your unique contributions:** Skills, methods, or innovations you've brought to your business, such as creative ideas, management style, product/service development, or relationship-building.
- **Your business model:** Strategic decisions or changes that have significantly impacted your business and their outcomes.
- **Achievements and evidence:** Examples of your actions and ideas that have driven success, supported by evidence like financial growth, staff engagement, customer retention, or community/environmental initiatives.
- **Recognition:** Awards, testimonials, or acknowledgment from the business or community.
- **Future vision:** Your goals for the business over the next three years and how your vision influences the company's direction and business plan.
- **Communication and impact:** How you share your vision and ideas within the business and the resulting impact on the organisation.

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Question 3

Please could you provide any additional supporting information?

You may want to include:

- What winning this award would mean to you
- Examples of your work or projects
- Testimonials from others
- Recognition or accolades you've received so far
- Extracurricular activities or hobbies you enjoy in your spare time

To the best of my knowledge, the information on this form is correct and can be substantiated if required.

Position:

Date:

Signature:

TOTAL WORD COUNT

Terms and Conditions

1. The closing date for entries is **10am on Monday 29 June 2026**
2. Applicants must be members of East Midlands Chamber.
3. Each application must have a completed declaration signature to verify the information provided.
4. Entrants must be aged 40 years or under.
5. Entries must be electronic and in one single document in either Microsoft Word or pdf format and in English.
6. Questions must be answered in the appropriate text box.
7. Supporting information should be included within the entry form using the appropriate text boxes, and within the word count.
8. All entries will be automatically acknowledged on receipt. All entries will be treated in confidence.
9. Shortlisted finalised will be announced on **Friday 3 July 2026**.
10. The virtual judging panel days will take place on **Friday 10 July 2026**.
11. Award winners will be announced at the Generation Next Conference and Awards on **Thursday 15 October 2026**.
12. Shortlisted and winning entries will be publicised, and individuals will be profiled.
13. By registering and completing an entry for the awards you agree to these terms and conditions.

Judging

All entries received by the deadline will be judged by an independent judging panel and a final shortlist will be drawn up by **3 July 2026**. Details of the awards can be seen at www.generationnextemc.co.uk

The Judges' (and in case of the Ambassador Award, the Chair's) decision is final.

For Judging Purposes Only:

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Please use the space below for comments about the applicant's application

Please score the questions below out of 10, 10 being high and 1 being low.

TOTAL SCORE

Questions	Comments	Score
Question 1		
Question 2		
Question 3		
Supporting evidence/ Video		