



# EXPORT GALA

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## Frequently Asked Questions

Applications for 2024 open on Tuesday, 4 June 2024. Applications close at 4.00pm on Friday, 12 July 2024.

### Who is eligible to enter?

- Any sole proprietor, partnership, incorporated society, or registered company, who is involved with or supports the export sector, with its principal place of business based and trading in or out of the Southland region within the geographical boundaries administered by the Southland Business Chamber is eligible to apply.
- Franchise businesses are eligible to enter provided that they can demonstrate that they are Southland owned and operated and not a branch or subsidiary of a non-Southland business.

### Does our business have to be nominated to enter?

- No, businesses can enter themselves.

### What happens if we want to nominate another business or charity?

- Please complete application form with additional contact information from yourself.

### What are the categories we can enter?

- Innovation Award
- Export Southland Grant
- DHL Mentorship Opportunity

### How do we choose which category to enter?

- Some business may be eligible for more than one category, however, you should choose the category/s that most suit your business, and emphasises what you wish to highlight in your entry.

### How do we submit an entry?

- Please ensure your application is submitted in our official application form, available at [southlandchamber.co.nz](https://southlandchamber.co.nz). Entries in other formats and supporting information will not be accepted. Website links will not be accepted. Please adhere to the word limits provided.

### Can we submit supplementary information?

- Yes, this may include
  - Testimonials/Awards/Accreditations/Certifications
  - Compliance
  - Website/Marketing Materials

### How much does it cost to enter?

- There is no cost to enter the Export Gala.

### How does the judging process work?

- The judging group is made up of external judges along with the Export Southland Committee. Judges make those decisions solely based on the entry forms submitted by the business

### What are our obligations as a finalist?

- As a finalist you must answer any media requests, attend any prior events as well as the Export Gala

### When is the Export Gala?

- The dinner will be held on **Friday, 20 September 2024** at Ascot Park Hotel.

### How do I purchase tickets to the awards dinner?

- More information about purchasing and cost of tickets will be announced in June. Tickets will be available on our website from Friday, 5 July 2024.

### Do I need to be a Southland Business Chamber member to apply?

- No, we welcome any exporting business to apply

### What happens after we submit our mentorship application?

- The Southland Business Chamber will pass on your application to the judges. The recipient/s of the mentorship will not be notified until the announcement is made on the night of the Export Gala on 20 September.

### What else do I need to know?

- All entrants must agree to take part in the publicity that has been organised by Export Southland. This may include photograph and video filming at the applicant's place of business.
- Applicants may use consultants or other outside assistance to help them prepare their entries. However, the providers of any such external assistance may not be present during any part of the judging process.
- All participants must be prepared to attend the Export Gala, to be held at the Ascot Park Hotel on Friday, 20 September 2024. This is a formal event during which ceremony is held and the recipients are announced.
- The winner will receive benefits of media coverage and profile and a certificate will be presented.
- Chamber Board members, employees and contractors will not be involved in the judging process, nor in deciding on the winning businesses. Accordingly, Southland Business Chamber Board members' businesses are eligible to apply.
- All applications are treated in confidence and will not be shared with any third parties unless with written consent of the business/individual involved.