

Applying for the GMCC Excellence Awards:

You will need to submit your final application in a Word Document template, which can be found on the website or alternatively, you can email communicate@gmchamber.co.uk for a copy.

You'll need the name of the document to be '[Company Name] - [Category Name]'.

Who can apply?

All businesses can apply, you can apply for your own company, or you are welcome to nominate a company achieving excellence in our region.

You can submit multiple applications, on behalf of different companies, or for multiple categories, but you will need to submit a **separate application** for each category/company.

There are no restrictions on size, sector, or geographical area. Please note that if you are not a member of Greater Manchester Chamber, the cost of applying for a non-member business is £400+vat.

Who fills this out:

We need key information, processes and stats, so as long as you have the right information you can complete the application form. This includes if you are nominating another company.

Information required to apply...

We've kept the application process as simple as possible, so we'll not need any financial or detailed company data, you'll just need to provide the below:

Of the company being nominated:

- Full company name (as stated on Companies House)
- Business address
- Contact name
- Contact phone
- Contact email

If you are nominating another business, you'll also need to provide:

- The company you work for
- Your own contact details including contact number and email

2025 Categories

Please see our categories for 2025 below, don't forget you can enter multiple categories!

- Global Star
- Sustainability Solution of the Year
- Growth Award
- Innovator of the Year
- Startup Business of the Year
- Micro Business of the Year
- Small Business of the Year (1-50 employees)
- Medium Business of the Year (50-100 employees)
- Large Business of the Year (100 employees +)
- Employer of the Year
- Charity Business of the Year (Registered Charities Only)
- People and Community Award
- Super Connector of the Year
- Networker of the Year
- Community Contributor
- Skills & Talent Champion
- Marketing Impact Award

Top Tips for your Application

Only include a brief description of your organisation - use the 800 words to tell your story!

Our Judges are more interested in hearing about your achievements, your journey, the challenges you have overcome and **why** your business should be recognised for this category.

Make the claim and back it up -

- How did you do this?
- What was the result or impact?
- What does this mean for the organisation, staff, community, industry, or clients?

Keep your answer informative and concise, make your key statements and then go into detail answering the questions above.

Keep your answer tailored to your chosen category – and why. If you are applying for multiple categories, please make sure that you submit a separate application relevant to the category theme.

Key Dates

- **16th July** – Awards close
- **6th August** – Shortlist confirmed
- **10th October** – GMCC Excellence Awards ceremony

Applying for the GMCC Excellence Awards is an opportunity to showcase your business achievements, innovations, and contributions to the community. We're looking for compelling stories of success, resilience, and impact that demonstrate excellence across all aspects of business.

In your application, we expect to hear about your journey, challenges faced, and the strategies that have led to your success. Share examples of initiatives, programmes, or projects that have made a tangible difference, supported by data or testimonials where possible.

While the word limit of **800 words** may seem restrictive, we encourage you to use this limit wisely to convey the essence of your accomplishments. Be concise, yet thorough, in outlining your achievements and their significance. We're excited to learn about your business's achievements, and we look forward to receiving your applications and celebrating the excellence of Greater Manchester.

Overview of Categories

Global Star

Global Star recognises businesses engaged in international trade, which may encompass importing, exporting, expanding into international markets, or establishing offices across borders.

Sustainability Solution of the Year

This award acknowledges businesses that have taken significant steps to implement sustainable practices or solutions. This could involve initiatives to reduce your carbon footprint, minimise waste, promote renewable energy, inspire staff and the wider community towards sustainable practices.

Growth Award

This award celebrates businesses that have remarkable growth in various aspects such as revenue, market share, services, employee numbers or opened new offices. Achievements could include impressive sales figures, product launches, or strategic acquisitions contributing to expansion, and implemented new services.

Innovator of the Year

This award honours businesses that have demonstrated a commitment to innovation through the development of groundbreaking products, services, technologies, or processes.

Startup of the Year

This award celebrates emerging businesses (under 3 years old) that show exceptional promise, creativity, and determination. Whether disrupting an industry, offering a fresh approach to customer service, or creating new job opportunities, this category recognises innovation and ambition at an early stage.

Micro Business of the Year

This award celebrates outstanding solo entrepreneurs or micro businesses (1–4 employees) that demonstrate excellence, resilience, or innovation. Whether it is innovation, or making an impact in their community, sector, or workforce, this category recognises those achieving big things with small teams.

Small Business of the Year (5-30 employees)

Celebrating small businesses that have achieved notable success and growth despite their size. This could include examples of innovative business models, exceptional customer service, contributions to the local community, internal initiatives, growth plans, and impact on employees. This category is for 5-30 full time employees, this includes all offices nationally and internationally. If you are also part of a larger group the employee numbers would also need to be considered.

Medium Business of the Year (30-100 employees)

Recognising medium-sized businesses that have demonstrated excellence in their industry, showing significant growth and impact. This could include examples of successful expansion, employee development programmes, or effective management practices.

Large Business of the Year (100 employees +)

Acknowledging large businesses that have achieved outstanding success and made significant contributions to their industry and community. Examples could include corporate social responsibility initiatives, diversity and inclusion efforts, or technological advancements.

Employer of the Year

Recognising businesses that prioritise the well-being and development of their employees, providing a positive and supportive work environment. Examples may include employee benefits, training programmes, career advancement opportunities, community projects, or employee satisfaction surveys.

Charity Business of the Year (Registered Charities Only)

Celebrating charities demonstrating exceptional commitment to supporting charitable causes and making a positive impact on society. Examples could include fundraising efforts, volunteer programmes, or partnerships with charitable organisations.

People and Community Award

Recognising businesses making significant contributions to business and local communities, minority groups, setting up initiatives to support individuals, communities, or businesses. Implementing charitable causes and making a meaningful difference. This could be by volunteering your time, mentoring, setting up support groups, setting up networks and partnerships.

Super Connector of the Year

Honoring individuals or businesses that go above and beyond to connect others, build meaningful relationships, and strengthen the business community. This could include making impactful introductions, facilitating partnerships, or creating inclusive spaces for collaboration and support.

Networker of the Year

Celebrating someone who consistently engages with networking opportunities, champions collaboration, and uses their platform to support others. This individual is visible, approachable, and dedicated to growing connections that benefit the wider business community.

Community Contributor

Recognising an individual who has made a significant impact on their local community through personal effort, passion, and initiative. Whether through volunteering, mentoring, fundraising, or leading projects that support others, this person stands out as a true community champion.

Skills and Talent Champion

This award recognises businesses that are committed to developing talent and building a skilled workforce. This could include providing work experience, engaging with schools or colleges, supporting apprenticeships, championing lifelong learning, or upskilling existing employees. Whether through mentoring, training programmes, or education partnerships.

Marketing Impact Award

Meaningful outcomes, all down to the power of marketing. This award recognises marketing that has delivered real, measurable impact, whether that's shifting perception, driving demand, building community or accelerating lead generation. The Marketing Impact Award celebrates the excellence of the creative, strategic and commercial minds in the Greater Manchester region over the past year. From bold rebrands to data-led campaigns, content, social, partnerships and more. Show us how marketing has made a difference, success can come in many forms and we welcome entries from every industry. How has your marketing moved the needle? This is your moment to share that story.