

Judging Criteria

Nomination categories for North East Accountancy Awards 2008

1. Finance Director of the Year

This award is open to registered directors of the company who have overall responsibility for the organisation's finances.

evidence of the following criteria should be shown:

- Increased/sustained financial achievement for the company
- Heightened quality of service since being in position
- Enterprise
- Dedication
- Innovation and initiative
- Strong leadership qualities
- Approachability
- Integrity
- Commitment
- Enthusiasm
- Team working and flexible working skills

2. Accountant of the Year

This award is open to all professionally qualified accountants from business, practice and public services.

Firms, businesses and institutes are encouraged to make nominations. Individual entries are also welcome. Evidence of the following criteria should be shown:

- Increased/sustained financial achievement for the company
- Heightened quality of service since being in position
- Enterprise
- Dedication
- Innovation and initiative
- Strong leadership qualities
- Approachability
- Integrity
- Commitment
- Enthusiasm
- Team working and flexible working skills

3. Young Accountant of the Year

This award is open to accountants below the age of 30 who have qualified with a chartered body; who have not been nominated for Accountant of the Year. Firms, businesses and institutes are encouraged to make nominations. Individual entries are also welcome.

Within the nominations for these categories (1, 2 & 3) evidence of the following criteria should be shown:

- Increased/sustained financial achievement for the company
- Heightened quality of service since being in position
- Enterprise
- Dedication
- Innovation and initiative
- Strong leadership qualities
- Approachability
- Integrity
- Commitment
- Enthusiasm
- Team working and flexible working skills

4. Part Qualified Accountant of the Year

This award is open to students studying accounting and finance who have completed and passed their first year of study, (evidence of this will be required). The judges will be looking for evidence that the student has:

- Dedication
- Imagination
- Innovation
- Excellent communication skills
- Team working skills
- Enthusiasm

5. Accounting Technician of the Year

This award is open to student and full members of the AAT who have made a significant impact to their employer's or client's business (evidence of this will be required). The judges will be looking for evidence that the student or member has shown a high level of:

- professionalism
- innovation
- responsiveness to customer needs (internal or external)
- commitment to quality
- leadership and team working

6. Branch of the Year

To enter into this category the nominated branch must be part of a National or International Company with an office based in the North East.

Within the nomination please outline how this branch has:

- Added value to clients
- Raised clients competitive advantage
- Developed company structure and enhanced customer effectiveness, client focus and innovation
- Increased the client base
- Shown financial improvement through partner earnings, sources of income, winning new clients and retention clients. Financial statements should be included.
- Developed unique services
- Provided a positive working environment

7. Independent Firm of the Year

To enter this category the Firm must be an Accounting practice within the North East, which is one of six or fewer offices.

Within the nomination please include how the company has done the following:

- Added value to clients
- Raised clients competitive advantage
- Developed company structure and enhanced customer effectiveness, client focus and innovation
- Increased the client base
- Shown financial improvement through partner earnings, sources of income, winning new clients and retention clients. Financial statements should be included.
- Developed unique services
- Provided a positive working environment

8. Employer of the Year

Supply quantitative and qualitative evidence showing how your organisation provides and offers the best possible opportunities for your employees.

The judges are looking for evidence of the following:

- Supportive structure and environment
- Investment in employees including training
- Caring and staff well-being ie health and wealth
- Presenting opportunities, identifying and promoting potential
- Flexible working practices
- Employee benefits
- Promoting good practice, beliefs and values
- Innovation in work practice
- Good internal communication
- Demonstrating equality and diversity

9. Corporate Finance Deal of the Year

This award is open to corporate finance departments operating within accountancy firms, smaller boutique corporate finance firms where qualified accountants account for the majority of professional staff and corporate financial advisors.

The nomination must show that the finance team has been instrumental in securing the deal for the client as well as showing evidence of:

- Innovation in initiating the deal
- How the deal has maximised benefit to the regional economy
- Strong team work and dedication
- Flexibility in job roles to ensure the end result
- How the financial strength of all interested parties including advisors, customers, employees, financiers and owners is increased by the deal

10. Business Finance Team of the Year

This award is open to teams of two or more people from commerce, industry and small practice. Within the nomination please show evidence of the following, including quotes and testimonials from clients and customers where relevant.

Judges will be judging the nomination on the following areas:

- Ability to work well as a team
- How your results have benefited your company and/or clients
- Increased business/retained client base through team work
- Increased productivity as a team
- Evidence of flexibility and colleague support

11. Public Sector Finance Team of the Year

This award is open to teams of two or more people from the public sector, charities and other not-for-profit organisations. Within the nomination please show evidence of the following, including quotes and testimonials from internal and external customers where relevant.

Judges will be judging the nomination on the following areas:

- Ability to work well as a team
- How your results have benefited your organisation and your internal customers
- Increased efficiency, value for money and positive impact on external customers through team work
- Increased productivity as a team
- Evidence of flexibility and colleague support

12. Outstanding Achievement of the Year

This Award is open for nominations for those who have shown significant achievement over many years and made an outstanding contribution to the accountancy profession or the company which they are part of. For this category the judges will be looking for demonstrations of superior working in the following areas:

- Significant achievement over many years
- Determination
- Enterprise
- Strategic development
- Leadership
- High quality of service
- Integrity
- Clear thought
- Attitude
- Innovation