

Karen Burt Memorial Award 2025

Congratulations, you have been nominated by your Professional Engineering Institution for consideration for the Karen Burt Memorial Award 2025. Background information about the award is given in the accompanying *Terms of Reference*. Please note that you must be a UK resident to apply.

Nominations must be submitted online via the WES awards platform:

<https://wes.awardsplatform.com/>

You will be prompted to create an Awards Force account to submit your nomination. Once an account is created, you will be invited to create a submission.

Please complete as follows:

Title Your full name including your title if appropriate,
e.g. “Dr Sam Sharp”, or “Jan Smith”

Description A description of the items you are uploading.

1. You **must** upload a head and shoulders photograph as a jpg or gif file, to accompany your application. This is for use on the WES website and other publicity material.
2. You may upload up to **three** drawings, photos, or other images referencing your engineering projects to support your application.
 - a. The software will automatically use your name as the entry title.
 - b. There is a description field where you can add more information if you wish.

The next page is the application form. These are the questions you will be asked:

- Name
- Post nominals
- Email address
- Name of Professional Engineering Institution
- Contact name at Professional Engineering Institution
- Email address of contact at Professional Engineering Institution
- Date of Registration
- Academic and Professional Qualifications (Maximum 50 words)
- Please give details of your most recent employment (Maximum 150 words)
- Please outline a project which contributed to your Registration, your role in the project, and the reasons why you have chosen this project as part of your submission (Maximum 1000 words)
- Please state ways in which you have been active in promoting women in engineering (Maximum 500 words)
- Please outline your professional plans and aspirations for your future (Maximum 200 words)



- Please provide a third-person biography for use on the WES website to accompany your nomination (Maximum 150 words)
- Additional information for consideration by the judging panel (Maximum 200 words)
- You may also include up to two hyperlinks to relevant sites to support your application.
- You will have to provide the following contact details:
 - Address
 - Telephone number

You can save your progress as a draft by clicking the “SAVE AS DRAFT” button at the bottom of the form and return any stage. To complete your submission, click the “SUBMIT” button at the bottom of the application form.

Please ensure that all questions are completed, and your nomination submitted no later than 22 September 2025

You should receive an automatic confirmation of your submission. Please contact awards@wes.org.uk if you do not receive a confirmation.

Please note:

- No CVs will be accepted.
- The word count for each question is strict and the software will not allow any words over the limit.

The winner and unsuccessful candidates will be notified in November 2025.

The winner will be awarded a prize of £1,000 and invited to give a presentation on their Chartership Project at the Caroline Haslett Lecture and Awards Ceremony, taking place in London in December 2025.

Good luck.

Dr Katherine Critchley PhD, FWES, MIET

Head Judge

Karen Burt Memorial Award

Women's Engineering Society

KAREN BURT MEMORIAL AWARD 2025

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Aim

To commemorate the life of Dr Karen Burt, to encourage women to achieve chartered status and to promote the professions of engineering, applied science and Information Technology (IT). This award is presented annually to a newly-chartered woman of a high calibre in engineering, applied science or IT, who has demonstrated a commitment to the promotion of her profession. The chosen candidate must have been awarded chartered status between March 2024 and February 2025, and can only be nominated once.

Background

Dr Karen Burt was an eminent physicist who gained her PhD in electron microscopy at Reading University before joining British Aerospace as a project engineer for scientific satellites. She had an extensive and varied career before leaving to establish her own consultancy. After playing a leading role in establishing the Centre for Advanced Instrumentation Systems at University College London, her career was tragically cut short by an early death. Dr Burt influenced many people with her enthusiasm for engineering; she presented the Faraday Lecture and judged young designer competitions. She contributed to the work of the Women's Engineering Society, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and the Institute of Physics, in particular offering advice to companies on the recruitment and retention of women. Dr Burt proved herself a role model to many by writing on career breaks and offering guidance based on extensive research and her own experience following the birth of her son. The range of her experiences and generosity made her an inspiration to all.

Sponsor

This award is funded by a bequest made by Dr Burt's father, Professor Cyril Hilsum, CBE, FRS, FREng, Leonard Weisberg FIEEE, a family friend, and colleagues, Professor E P Raynes FRS and Dr Colin Waters.

2025 Important dates

July	Professional Engineering Institutions invited to select a candidate
29 July 2025	Nominations open
22 September 2025	Completed receipt of nominations from the candidate
October 2025	Judging
November 2025	Winner notified and invited to give a presentation at the Caroline Haslett Lecture and Awards Ceremony
16 December 2024	Caroline Haslett Lecture and Awards Ceremony