

## Karen Burt Memorial Award 2024

Launched on 3 November 1998, the Karen Burt Memorial Award is an annual award made by the Women's Engineering Society (WES) to the best Newly-Chartered Woman Engineer within that year in the following disciplines: engineering, applied science and IT.

The award recognises the candidate's excellence and potential in the practice of engineering and highlights the importance of Chartered status, as well as offering recognition to contributions made by the candidate to the promotion of the engineering profession. The winning candidate is awarded a prize of £1,000.

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 set up her own consultancy and was instrumental in establishing the Centre for Advanced Instrumentation Systems at University College London. Dr Burt is remembered as a gifted communicator and her fight to recover her speech and mobility following a stroke was an inspiration to all who knew her.

### Karen Burt Memorial Award Winners

Year	Winner	PEI	Year	Winner	PEI
2024	Kerry Evans	IHE	2011	Gemma Whatling	IMechE
2023	Dr Kelly Loukatou	IET	2010	Julie Templeton	ICE
2022	Dr Emma Walton	IoP	2009	Katy Deacon	IET
2021	Eleanor Earl	ICE	2008	Emily Spearman	IE
2020	Tina Gunnarson	ICE	2007	Jane Hunter	IHT
2019	Mandy Lester	IChemE	2006	Louise McDevitt	IHT
2018	Dr Susan Deeny	IFE	2005	Katy Roelich	IWEM
2017	Madeleine Jones	IChemE	2004	Suzanne Bland	ICE
2016	Clare Lavelle	EI	2003	Jane Wild	IMechE
2015	Helen Randell	ICE	2002	Helen Marson	IChemE
2014	Elaine Greaney	IET	2001	Beth Hutchison	BCS
2013	Molly Stevens	IOM3	2000	Una McQuaid	ICE
2012	Kate Cooksey	ICE	1999	Rebecca Dowsett	IEE



## Making a Nomination

Participating accrediting engineering institutions can **nominate one candidate annually**, following an internal institutional review process. Final selection is made by a WES panel based on further information provided by the candidate. This latter stage focuses particularly on the candidate's contribution to the engineering profession.

Professional Engineering Institutions are invited to select a candidate who has gained chartered status between March 2024-February 2025. Candidates can only be nominated once. See the *Karen Burt Memorial Award Terms of Reference* below for further details.

## 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

## Further information

Institution managers who need further information should contact WES at [awards@wes.org.uk](mailto:awards@wes.org.uk).

Newly chartered female Engineers wishing to obtain further information about the award and the nomination procedure should contact their own accrediting professional institution, or email WES at the above address.

## KAREN BURT MEMORIAL AWARD 2024

### 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 the best newly-chartered woman engineer who has demonstrated a commitment to the promotion of her profession. The chosen candidate must have been awarded chartered status between 1 March 2024 and 29 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.

### PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATIONS

#### Criteria:

- Each Institution may nominate one newly chartered woman engineer.
- The candidate must have achieved Chartership between 1 March 2024 and 29 February 2025.
- The candidate must be a UK resident. Candidates temporarily working outside of the UK will be deemed eligible only if their contract is under six months in duration, or if they are a serving member of the armed forces.
- Candidates can only be nominated once.

## Selection Criteria – optional for PEI use internally

The criteria listed below may be used by the Institution to select their best candidate.

*There is no requirement to return this information to the Women's Engineering Society.*

- Nominating Professional Engineering Institution
- Candidate's name
- Date Candidate was awarded Chartership
- Rating as practising Engineer
- Involvement with Institution affairs
- Involvement with activities to promote women in engineering
- Communication skills
- Enthusiasm for career
- Future plans and aspirations
- Any other outstanding qualities that may support the selection

Once you have made your selection, candidates should be directed to submit their nomination via the WES awards platform:

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

The associated document, *2025 Karen Burt Memorial Award Information for Candidates* should be sent to your selected candidate to inform them about the application process.