



Irish Research Council Researcher of the Year Awards – Guidelines

About

The Irish Research Council will award its first annual Researcher of the Year Awards in 2017 to coincide with celebrations marking 15 years of the Council funding excellent research across all disciplines.

The awards will recognise and commend Council-funded researchers who have made or are making a highly significant and valuable contribution to research in Ireland over their career to-date, whether within or outside academia.

Award Categories

1. Researcher of the Year – currently based in Academia
One award will be made to a person currently working in research in an academic institution who has previously been an awardee of the Irish Research Council/IRCSET/IRCHSS and who has made an exceptional contribution to research in Ireland, in any field.
2. Researcher of the Year – currently based outside Academia
One award will be made to a person currently working in a research driven role in a non-academic setting (i.e. in enterprise/industry/ the public or NGO sectors) who has previously been an awardee of the Irish Research Council/IRCSET/IRCHSS and who has made an exceptional contribution to industry or society in Ireland, in any field.
3. Early-Career Researcher of the Year
One award will be made to an early-career researcher, currently based either in or outside academia in Ireland, who is or has been an awardee of the Irish Research Council/IRCSET/IRCHSS and who has demonstrated an exceptional level of achievement in their field at this stage in their career.

Eligibility Criteria

- Nominees must be persons who, in their own name, applied for and received funding from the Irish Research Council, IRCSET or IRCHSS
- Nominees' IRC/IRCSET/IRCHSS funding award(s) must fall under one or more of the following categories: postgraduate scholarship; postdoctoral or research fellowship; or research project awards
- For Category 3, nominees must have successfully completed their PhD no more than 8 years prior to 1 January 2018. Allowance will be made for time taken as maternity leave from paid employment during the eligibility window.¹
- Category 1 nominees must be currently employed within academia
- Category 2 nominees must be currently employed in a research-based role outside of academia.

¹ The date of conferring will be taken as the date for completion for the purposes of this award.

- Category 3 nominees may be employed within or outside academia.
- Nominees can come from any discipline
- Nominees for categories 1 and 2 can be currently based anywhere in the world, however the nominations will be evaluated on the nominees' contribution in Ireland
- Current Irish Research Council (board) members may not be nominated.
- Nominations may only be made using the official online application form.

Nomination Process

- Nominations for these awards must be endorsed [by eligible research performing organisations \(RPO\)](#).
- For persons currently outside academia, the nominating RPO should be the host institution during the nominee(s) IRC/IRCSET/IRCHSS award.
- Both an eligible female and male nomination must be submitted by an RPO.
- An RPO may not wish to submit for all three categories. Therefore, for any eligible RPO the minimum nomination is two persons (1 male, 1 female under a single category), with the maximum being six persons (three categories, with 1 male & 1 female under each)
- Institutions must disclose whether there was a self-nomination process internally.
- Nominations will be by means of the [online nomination form](#) on the Council [website](#). The Research Officer will complete this nomination form.
- Each named nominee must complete the word document for their category. A five-page limit applies to this form. This form can be downloaded [here](#) and should be sent to the designated research officer within the RPO to be uploaded.
- Receipt of more than two nominations per category from the same institution will result in the disqualification of all nominees in that category.
- Applications should be concise and clear, written in Plain English and should avoid the use of acronyms, jargon or overly-technical language. Applications should be written for the lay reader, not for academics.
- Canvassing the Irish Research Council or the Adjudication Panel is not permitted and will result in automatic disqualification. The nominations will be judged by a panel comprised of the following
 - Dr Richard Thorn, Chair, President Emeritus, Institute of Technology, Sligo
 - Dr Ruth Barrington, former CEO Health Research Board and Molecular Medicine Ireland
 - Professor Nicholas Canny, Professor Emeritus of History at NUI Galway; a past President of the RIA and former member of the Scientific Council of the ERC,
 - Professor Áine Hyland, Emeritus Professor of Education, University College Cork
- The decision of the Adjudication Panel is final.

Evaluation Criteria – Categories 1. and 2.

- Excellence in research – evaluated on the basis of published work; national and international acknowledgements; research awards secured.
- Demonstration of leadership in their field.

- Communication of their research.
- Impact of their research on knowledge, society or innovation.

Evaluation Criteria – Category 3. (Early-career Researcher of the Year)

- Excellence in research – evaluated on the basis of track record, appropriate to their career stage
- Demonstration of potential to become a leader in their field
- Track record in communicating research and potential to evolve into an inspiring role model for new researchers

Presentation of awards

- The three award winners will be presented with a commemorative plaque at a gala event in late 2017, marking the Council's 15th anniversary.
- The winners will also be profiled through an extensive media and online communications campaign.

Important Dates

- FAQs will be uploaded onto the website weekly. The closing date for receipt of FAQs is 2 October 2017.
- Nominations are being accepted from 21 August 2017.
- Closing date for entries: 4pm, Monday 16 October 2017.
- Adjudication Panel: Early November 2017

Queries will be dealt with via published Q&As. Queries or questions should be submitted only via email to rotya@research.ie.

ENDS

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