

**Irish Research Council
 Researcher of the Year Award 2017
 Frequently Asked Questions
 FAQs are published on the Council website weekly.**

1.	In respect of the Researcher of the Year awards, can you advise if the award category '3. Early-Career Researcher of the Year' is only applicable to students who have completed their PhDs?
	<i>Yes, early career-researchers must have completed their PhDs. In the interest of fairness, the date of conferring is taken as the date of completion for all PhDs. As with the other categories, the nominee must have been funded by the Irish Research Council.</i>
2.	Is there an age limit for applying for this award? That is to say, if a person is over retirement age but still working in the university, it is possible to apply for a nomination (assuming one met the other criteria).
	<i>There is no age limit on the award. If the person is employed (and meet the other criteria) they are eligible for nomination.</i>
3.	Regarding the IRC Early Career Researcher award, is it permissible to include publications that were published before the date of conferring?
	<i>Yes – the researcher should select the publications which they feel are the most relevant.</i>
4.	Is it possible for a postgraduate research student, in the closing stages of finishing their PhD, to apply for Researcher of the Year under Category 3, Early-Career Researcher of the Year?
	<i>The researcher of the year should have completed their PhD.</i>
5.	It is not quite clear from the guidelines if the Research Office is (i) filling out the online form (endorsement) and uploading the applicant's five pages.
	<i>Yes, the research office submits all of the nominations for that institution. This ensures that there is gender balance in the submissions for each category.</i>
6.	I have a query in relation to a potential applicant under Category 3. Are they eligible if they are now based in an HEI outside of Ireland?
	<i>No, the researchers nominated for category 3 must now be based in Ireland as the award is to reward impact in Ireland.</i>
7.	Are awardees of a New Foundations Award eligible to apply.
	<i>New Foundations awardees are eligible for nomination.</i>
8.	X. has a relationship to IRC in that they acted as a mentor to an awardee. So they have not been funded directly as a researcher. Would they be eligible to be nominated?
	<i>No, the nominee must have won an IRC/IRCSET/IRCHSS award in their own right.</i>
9.	Category 2 – the applicant is co-founder and exec directory of a company (established in 2015) and currently a PhD student funded by the IRC Postgraduate Scholarship. Will the applicant be eligible to apply for this category?
	<i>No, Category 2 applicants must be currently employed in a research position outside of academia and be previous award holders of the IRC/IRCSET/IRCHSS.</i>

10.	Category 3 - can a recipient of the IRC Ulysses programme apply to this category?
	<i>Yes, recipients of project awards are eligible to apply.</i>
11.	We have one question in relation to the currently open IRC Researcher of the Year call: should the IRC/IRCSET/IRCHSS awards of the nominees be completed or can they be still active projects (still running)?
	<i>The projects may be still active for categories one and three.</i>
12.	Is a person who holds an emeritus status/contract eligible for nomination?
	<i>As above, there is no age limit on nominees, however, a nominee should be a current employee. Therefore, those with emeritus status without a contract of employment are not eligible.</i>
13.	The guidelines state that the nominees' awards must fall under the categories of postgraduate scholarship; postdoctoral or research fellowship; or research project awards. Could you clarify whether "research project awards" includes all principal investigator-led awards, e.g. Basic Research Grant Scheme, Graduate Research Education Programme Awards, Research Development Initiative, Research for Policy and Society, New Horizons? Or is it limited to awards arising from the Research Project Grants scheme?
	<i>This includes all principle-investigator-led awards funded by the IRC/IRCHSS/IRCSET.</i>