

**Researcher of the Year Awards 2018**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**Version 1 – 31 August 2018**

1. Is having a PhD a requirement for either category 1, 2 or 3?

Nominees without a PhD, who are awardees or alumni of the Council, can be put forward for any of the categories.

2. Can you please confirm whether applicants for category 1 and category 3 need to have completed a PhD, as it is referred to in the Call Document that applicants from category 2 need to have completed a PhD?

A completed PhD is not a requirement for any of the categories.

However, where nominees for the Early Career Researcher of the Year Award (category 2) *do have a PhD*, they must have completed it no more than eight years prior to 1 January 2019. For the purposes of this award, the date of conferring will be taken as the PhD completion date.

Nominees for the Early Career Researcher of the Year Award (category 2) *who are not in possession of a doctoral degree* must have achieved their highest postgraduate qualification no more than eight years prior to 1 January 2019. For the purposes of this award, the date of conferring will be taken as the degree completion date. In the intervening eight or fewer years, he/she will be expected to have completed at least four years of full-time research.

The above periods of eligibility can be extended on the grounds of eligible career breaks (see question 5 below).

3. What Council awards must nominees hold or have held to be eligible to apply for the Researcher of the Year award?

Nominees must be persons who, in their own name, applied for and received funding under one or more of the following categories: postgraduate scholarship; postdoctoral or research fellowship; or a research project award.

Research project awards include 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, Laureate Awards.

4. Is a past awardee of a Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting Award eligible to apply?

A past awardee of a Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting Award is eligible to apply *only if* they hold or have also held one or more of the Council's research awards in their own name, as specified in the reply to question 3 above. Current or former Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting fellows who do not hold or have not held a Council award as specified in question 3 above are not eligible for this competition.

5. Can you please advise what the Council's allowance period is per each period of maternity leave and other eligible career breaks taken from paid employment?

The Council's allowance periods for eligible career breaks are:

- For **maternity leave**, the effective elapsed time since the award of first PhD (or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved) will be considered reduced by 18 months or if longer by the documented amount of leave taken for each child after the first PhD award, or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved.
- The effective elapsed time since the award of the first PhD (or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved) will be considered reduced by the documented amount of **paternity leave** actually taken for each child born after the first PhD award, or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved.
- For **adoptive leave**, the effective elapsed time since the award of first PhD (or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved) will be considered reduced by 18 months or if longer by the documented amount of leave taken for each child after the first PhD award, or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved.
- For **parental leave/carer's leave**, the effective elapsed time since the award of the first PhD (or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved) will be considered reduced by the documented time of leave actually taken by the applicant for each incident which occurred after the first PhD award, or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved.
- Verification for **long-term illness** must be provided in the form of a medical certificate. For long-term illness (over ninety days for the applicant or a close family member, i.e. child, spouse, parent, sibling), the effective elapsed time since the award of the PhD degree (or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved) will be considered reduced by the documented amount of leave actually taken by the applicant for each incident which occurred after the first PhD award, or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved.
- Verification for **leave taken for clinical qualifications, military service or for other unavoidable statutory reasons** must be provided in an appropriate form. The effective elapsed time since the award of the PhD degree (or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved) will be considered reduced by the documented amount of leave actually taken by the applicant for each incident which occurred after the first PhD award, or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved.

6. Can current awardees of IRC postgraduate funding schemes be put forward for category 2, even if they have not yet graduated with a PhD?

YES. A completed PhD is not a requirement for any of the categories (see above, question 1).

7. If an early stage researcher is currently not in employment, are they eligible to apply to category 2? Or there is a requirement for applicants to have a contract with a university at the time of the call's deadline? Is there a requirement that they must be in employment at the time when the awards are announced?

One award will be made to an early-career researcher currently working in research in an academic institution.

Applicants to category 2 at the *postdoctoral level or above* need to have an employment contract with the nominating institution (or another research performing institution abroad) at the time of application.

Applicants to category 2 at the *postgraduate level* need to be hosted by the nominating institution (or another research performing institution abroad) at the time of application.