



RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS – GUIDELINES

ABOUT

The Irish Research Council¹ (the Council) has opened its call for nominations for the 2018 Researcher of the Year awards. Now in their second year, these awards will commend the very best of our awardees and alumni who have made, or are making, highly significant and valuable contributions to knowledge, society or innovation. The nominations will be judged by an expert independent panel whose decision will be final.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Nominations are invited under three categories:

- **Category one — Researcher of the Year**

One award will be made to a person currently working in research in an academic institution who is, or has previously been, a named awardee of the Council¹, and who has made an exceptional contribution to research in their field.

This category will be evaluated on the basis of:

- > excellence in research — on the basis of published work; national and international acknowledgements; research awards secured;
- > demonstration of leadership in their field;
- > communication of their research; and
- > impact of their research on knowledge, society or innovation.

- **Category two — Early-Career Researcher of the Year**

One award will be made to an early-career researcher currently working in research in an academic institution who is, or previously has been, a named awardee of the Council¹, and who has demonstrated an exceptional level of achievement in their field at this stage in their career.

This category will be evaluated on the basis of:

- > excellence in research — on the basis of track record appropriate to their career stage;
- > demonstration of potential to become a leader in their field;
- > communication of their research; and
- > potential to evolve into an inspiring role model for new researchers.

¹ This includes the Council's predecessors, namely the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) and the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET).

- **Category three — Alumnus of the Year (currently based outside academia)**

One award will be made to an alumnus of the Council¹ who is making a highly significant contribution in their chosen field outside of academia, i.e. enterprise, civic society or the public sector. Eligible alumni need not specifically be working in a research-driven role.

This category will be evaluated on the basis of:

- > achievements in their field – on the basis of the impact of their work; nationally and/or internationally;
- > demonstration of leadership and a proven ability to make a difference;
- > communication of their work; and
- > contribution of their work to knowledge, society or innovation.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Nominees under all three categories must be persons who, in their own name, applied for and received funding from the Council¹.
- Category two nominees must have successfully completed their PhD no more than eight years prior to 1 January 2019². This period of eligibility can be extended on the grounds of eligible career breaks³.
- Category one and two nominees must currently be based within academia.
- Nominees can be based anywhere in the world.
- Nominees from all disciplinary areas are encouraged.
- Canvassing the Council or the adjudication panel is not permitted and will result in automatic disqualification.
- Current Council Board members may not be nominated.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Categories one and two

- Step one — Nominees
 - > Nominees must complete the relevant form available [here](#).
 - > The completed form should be sent to the designated research officer within their academic institution.
 - > Nominees not currently based in an Irish academic institution should forward their forms to the designated research officer at the academic institution where they held their Council¹ award.
- Step two — Academic institutions
 - > Academic institutions may submit nominations (one male and one female) under one or both categories.
 - > Academic institutions should select two nominees (one male and one female) for each category entered.
 - > Receipt of more than two nominations per category from the same academic institution is not permitted.
 - > Research offices should forward the nominee forms together with the academic institution overview form, available [here](#), to rotya@research.ie no later than 4pm (Irish time) on 5 October 2018.

² For the purposes of this award, the date of conferring will be taken as the PhD completion date.

³ Eligible career breaks include maternity leave, paternity leave, adoptive leave, prolonged sick leave and carer's leave. Provision of documented evidence of an eligible career break will be required if an exception is to be requested.

Category three

- This category is open for self-nominations.
- Academic institutions are encouraged to contact Council¹ alumni to make them aware of this category.
- Nominees must complete the relevant form available [here](#).
- Applications should be emailed to rotya@research.ie no later than 4pm (Irish time) on 5 October 2018.

AWARD PRESENTATION

The awardees will be presented with a commemorative plaque at a ceremony in late 2018. The winners will also be profiled through an extensive media and online communications campaign.

IMPORTANT DATES

Call open	26 July 2018
FAQ deadline	28 September 2018
Nomination deadline	4pm (Irish time) 5 October 2018

If you do not find the answer to your query in the call documentation, you should contact the research office in your academic institution who will provide additional information. Research offices can send any queries they are unable to clarify to rotya@research.ie. Queries from category three nominees can be sent directly to rotya@research.ie.