1. Is an individual who received an IRC Travel Award eligible to apply?

An individual who received an IRC Travel Award is eligible to apply only if they have also held one or more of the Council’s research awards in their own name. They are not eligible if they only held an IRC Travel Award.

2. Does the Research Office/Academic Institution need to endorse or input into the submission of nominations under Category 3 unless the Research Office is directly nominating an individual?

The guidelines state that “This category is open for nominations by the organisation in which the individual currently works or by staff at the individual’s former academic institution (e.g. academic supervisor or mentor, research office, alumni and career development office). Any member of staff at the individuals’ former academic institutions is welcome to nominate them and there is no need for the Academic Institution of the Research Office to endorse a nomination made by a member of staff, though the Research Office can choose to oversee nominations made by staff.

3. A prospective category 3 applicant has submitted his soft bound PhD thesis, will have his Viva in September and will be graduating in Spring. He is an Employment-Based Programme awardee and is an employee of the partner organisation. Is he eligible to apply for the Category 3 awards?

The awardee guidelines state that in category 3, one award will be made to an alumnus (former awardee) of the Council who is making a highly significant impact outside of academia. Though this does not explicitly exclude a candidate who has not yet received their PhD, they likely would not have had sufficient time working outside academia to demonstrate substantiated examples of impact, leadership, or a contribution to knowledge, society or innovation.

4. For category 2, when calculating years post PhD can you use the date of graduation as the start point?

Category 2 nominees must have successfully completed their highest postgraduate qualification no more than eight years prior to 1 January 2021. For the purposes of this condition, the date of graduation will be taken into account.