

Researcher of the Year Awards 2019
Frequently Asked Questions
Version Four – 9 August 2019

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. Can you please advise if it is necessary to have one male and one female applicant for each category, or is it possible to submit an application only for one applicant in either category from a female or male applicant only?

Academic institutions are required to maintain gender balance within *any* category for which they wish to submit an applicant, i.e. “*each category entered*”. The application guidelines state:
“*Academic institutions may submit nominations (one male and one female) under one or both categories. Academic institutions are required to maintain gender balance within any category for which they wish to submit an application. Therefore, an academic institution may decide to enter a total of either 2 applicants (1 male and 1 female within the same category) or 4 applicants (1 male and 1 female in each category).*”

3. 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 states 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.

4. Can you please advise whether gender balance is a requirement of any submissions made under Category 3 by an Academic Institution?

Gender balance is not a requirement of any submissions made under Category 3.

<p>5. Can you please advise whether there is a limit to how many nominations can be submitted under Category 3 from an Academic Institution?</p>
<p>There is no limit to how many nominations can be submitted under Category 3 from an Academic Institution, as nominations can also be made by the organisation in which the individual currently works.</p>
<p>6. We have a candidate we would like to nominate for the Early- Career Researcher of the Year award, however, we do not have a IRC awardee of the opposite sex to put forward for this category. Can we still put forward our nominee?</p>
<p>After review it was decided that an exception to the requirement for Academic institutions to submit one male and one female nomination under each category would be made, <i>only</i> in cases where the institution does not have an eligible award holder of the opposite sex to nominate. This will be subject to verification by the IRC and a criteria of the eligibility of the nominated researcher.</p>
<p>7. Is an individual who has been awarded a “IRC Creative Connections Interdisciplinary Research Workshop Award” eligible to apply for Category 1 of the Researcher of the Year Awards?</p>
<p>Although the IRC Creative Connections Interdisciplinary Research Workshop Award is similar in scale to the New Foundations Award, it is not included in the following clause of the guidelines: <i>“A past awardee of a Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting Award or New Foundations Award is eligible to apply only if they have also held one or more of the Council’s research awards in their own name.”</i> Therefore, holders of such an award are eligible for Category 1 of the Researcher of the Year Awards.</p>
<p>8. 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?</p>
<p>As per the Researcher of the Year Awards guidelines, <i>“A completed PhD is not a requirement for any of the categories”</i>. Therefore, the applicant in question is eligible to be nominated for the Category 3 - Impact Award.</p>

ENDS