

**Researcher of the Year Awards 2020
Frequently Asked Questions
Version Four – 11 September 2020**

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 individual’s former academic institution is welcome to nominate them and there is no need for the Academic Institution or 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 their soft bound PhD thesis, will have their viva in September and will be graduating in spring. They are an Employment-Based Programme awardee and an employee of the partner organisation. Are they 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.

<p>5. Can you confirm if a postgraduate qualification is required in order to be nominated under Category 2 or would someone currently on a PhD programme with an undergraduate qualification qualify? Additionally, would someone who has received an IRC Postgraduate Scholarship in 2020 (due to begin the scholarship on October 2020) be eligible for this category?</p>
<p>Yes, someone on a PhD programme with an undergraduate qualification is eligible to be nominated for Category 2. Yes, someone about to begin an IRC Postgraduate Scholarship in autumn 2020 is eligible to be nominated for Category 2.</p>
<p>6. Could you provide more detail on what the following term means: “a named awardee of the Council”?</p>
<p>“A <i>named awardee</i>” refers to the nominee being the named individual on an IRC award, in other words that they successfully applied for and received the award under their own name as opposed to being funded as a team member under an award that was not granted directly to them.</p>
<p>7. Would an IRC New Foundations award qualify as an eligible award, or is that considered a travel grant?</p>
<p>As per the guidance document, “A <i>past awardee of a Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting Award, Creative Connections Award, New Foundations Award, Ulysses Award or similar 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.</i>”</p>
<p>8. Can you please confirm whether a male and female candidate from an RPO must be submitted for both categories 2 and 3?</p>
<p>For Categories 1 and 2: “<i>Academic institutions may submit nominations (one male and one female) under one or both categories.</i>” For Category 3: “<i>Gender balance is not a requirement of submissions made under Category 3.</i>”</p>
<p>9. Would a researcher who holds a UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities Networking award be eligible to apply?</p>
<p>A UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities Networking grant is not sufficient to be eligible for nomination. The researcher would need to hold/have held an individual award from the IRC or its precursors (IRCSET and IRCHSS) rather than a networking award.</p>
<p>10. Would a STEM Co-PI on a COALESCE project led by an AHSS PI be eligible for Researcher of the Year category 1 under this award?</p>
<p>This candidate is not eligible as they have not been awarded IRC funding in their own name.</p>

ENDS