

**Researcher of the Year Awards 2021
Frequently Asked Questions
Version 4: 30/09/2021**

1. Are research-facing technical staff eligible to be nominated for the Research Ally Prizes?

Yes. The IRC recognises that researchers are supported by a wide range of staff across higher education institutions and research performing organisations. Such staff will have a variety of job specifications and titles. Nominations of research-facing technical staff are welcome.

2. Do categories 1-3 recognise research teams?

As IRC awards typically fund individuals, this is the focus of categories 1-3. However, the IRC recognises that teamwork is often a key component of excellent research, and team leadership is among the many skills and talents that Ireland's best researchers will possess. The IRC welcomes the inclusion of such information in nominations, and award-winners are encouraged to note the role of research teams in any arising publicity.

3. I have never been funded by the IRC, can I still make a nomination for the Research Ally Prizes?

Yes. The Research Ally Prizes are national awards open to all researchers and research active staff in Ireland. Nominators and nominees are not required to be currently or previously funded by the IRC.

4. Is a nominee for Category 2 who finishes PhD on 30 September 2021 and starts Postdoc contract on 01 November 2021 eligible?

Yes, applicants to Category 2 at postgraduate level need to be hosted by the nominating institution at the time of application, the deadline for which is the 1 Oct 2021. A completed PhD is not a requirement for Category 2.

5. I have a question about the Research Ally prize eligibility: I would like to nominate a mentor but this person will be on sabbatical in the upcoming academic year 2021/22 and I was wondering if this still falls within the eligibility criteria?

Nominees who are on sabbatical are still eligible for nomination for the Research Ally Prizes.

6. I have three children and have taken maternity leave for each child since the award of my highest postgraduate qualification. Does the 18-month maternity leave extension apply to each child i.e. 18 months x3?

Yes. The 18-month maternity leave extension applies to the leave taken for each child of the applicant after the first PhD award, or the highest postgraduate qualification achieved.

7. Does the IRC prefer to receive the nominee submissions in the first person or third person?

The IRC does not have a preference in this regard but, in previous years, panel members have found entries written as a narrative as opposed to bullet point more engaging.

8. I am a former IRC GOIPG awardee but have recently moved abroad for my postdoc. Am I still eligible to apply for the Category 2 award?

Category 1-2 nominees can be based anywhere in the world at the time of application. **Please note:** Nominees not currently based in an Irish HEI/RPO should forward their forms to the designated Research Officer at the HEI/RPO where they held their IRC award.

9. Can I include an image/figure to clarify text content in a nomination form?

Yes, an image/figure can be used to clarify content in a nomination form, although we would recommend that images/figures be used sparingly and that the nomination is comprised primarily of text.

