

**Researcher of the Year Awards 2022
Frequently Asked Questions
Version 1: 15/08/22**

1. (i) Could you tell me whether someone who has applied last year or a previous year, but did not win the award, can apply again this year? Also, (ii) could someone who won the award in a previous year, apply again this year?

- (i) Yes, the IRC will accept applications from candidates who have applied in previous years but were unsuccessful.
- (ii) No. Previous award winners are ineligible for awards in the same category.

2. In the Nomination for category 3 form, the text boxes have no word limit included. Should there be word limits and if there are, could you tell me what they are please?

No. Given the complexity of impact narratives, the IRC understands that demonstrating the relevant impact may require more flexibility in applications. However, please bear in mind, previous panel reviewers have expressed a preference for narrative approaches (over bullet points) and for applications that make the case for a candidate concisely.

3. I note for categories 1-3 that it states in the guidelines that: “A 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 just wanted to confirm that New Foundations is considered a travel grant? I ask as having supported previous applications, many include research as part of their proposal.

New Foundations Awards fall under the category of networking awards, which, like travel grants, are insufficient for consideration in categories 1-3, unless they are held in addition to one of the council’s named awards categories, as listed in the Eligibility Criteria in the Researcher of the Year Award Guidelines.

4. I wished to confirm that for category one and two, that if we submit an application from an individual of one sex to category one or two then we need to find someone of the other sex too for that same category?

Yes, for Category 1 and 2 institutions must nominate, where possible, both a man and a woman in the STEM category and likewise in AHSS. Only where no eligible candidate exists within the institution to allow for gender balance can a single candidate of either gender be nominated in isolation.

5. I have a query for Category 4 Research Ally Prizes. I would like to nominate my Industry/Enterprise mentor (Enterprise Partnership Scheme funded by IRC in 2020) who is based in the US and not Ireland. He is actively involved as a mentor in my project. Would he be eligible for nomination?

Yes. Given the global nature of the Enterprise Awards, the IRC will accept nominations of industry/enterprise mentors who are not based in Ireland.

6. I had a quick question about who can nominate for category 3 – if someone supervised an IRC funded PhD student, and was the grantholder for the award, does that make them eligible to nominate?

Yes, they are eligible to nominate. Though the majority of applications are received from HEIs/RPOs, there are no constraints on who is eligible to nominate under category 3.

7. I was wondering whether as a two-year IRC Postdoctoral Fellow (begun in 2021) I would be eligible for category 3.

Yes, current award holders are eligible, provided that the impact and experience necessary for the award is demonstrable at the time of application.