IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

Researcher of the Year Awards 2023
Frequently Asked Questions
Version 2: 12 September 2024

1. Regarding the recent call for researcher of the year, in reference to category two, can a submission be made if you are still undergoing your PhD studies? (6 months left).

Here are the eligibility criteria for Category 2:
• Category 2 nominees must have successfully completed their highest postgraduate qualification no more than eight years prior to 1 January 2024. This period of eligibility can be extended on the grounds of eligible career breaks.
• Applicants to Category 2 at postdoctoral level or above must have an employment contract with the nominating institution (or another research performing institution abroad) at the time of application. Applicants to Category 2 at postgraduate level need to be hosted by the nominating institution (or another research performing institution abroad) at the time of application.
A postgraduate with 6 months to go is eligible if their nomination is supported by their HEI.

2. In previous years, holding the IRC New Foundations award did not make potential candidates eligible unless they held at least one other IRC award. Reading the guidance document, it seems that having a New Foundations award alone makes you eligible. Can I confirm please that is the case? That just having or previously have held the IRC New Foundations grant alone makes candidates eligible to apply to category 1-3?

Yes, researchers can be nominated holding a New Foundations award alone. It is a general requirement that:
- For the first three categories, nominations should evidence the importance of IRC funding to the achievements of the nominee as a researcher within a given category.

3. Is the SFI-IRC Pathway award considered as an eligible IRC award for nomination to ROTY?

Yes, as long as the researcher is funded under the IRC awards made under the SFI- IRC pathway scheme.

4. I wished to check, for category 1-3, can nominees self-nominate or does someone need to nominate them as in the case of category 4?

'If you do not find the answer to your query in the call documentation, you should contact the Research Office in your HEI/RPO for additional information. Research officers may send any queries they are unable to clarify to rotya@research.ie .'

5. We have a researcher who we would like to nominate for category 3, impact award, of the ROTYA call. In the form, for the nominator details, who in the Research office should that be (can or should it be a research support officer, the director of the research office or the Vice-president for research and development)?

The Vice President for Research or their nominee may submit the nomination.

6. Can a previous winner under category 4 (Research Ally) be nominated again as a candidate for this award? Or is it that previous award holders in this category are not eligible?

Yes, a Research Ally can be nominated again each year and also receive several nominations within each year if they are nominated.

7. I have an applicant for category 3 of the IRC Researcher of the Year Award. I wished to check, it is ok to hyperlink references (e.g. to an EU law they were involved in or policy document they helped draft to help illustrate their output) or do they need to list the reference?

It is fine to include the hyperlink and not have the specific reference quoted.

8. Can a reference to internal deadlines of the institutions be made to the IRC research community for this call?

The IRC will promote this call to the research community right up to our deadline, in order to ensure all potential nominees receive the information. However, HEIs and RPOs will have

different internal deadlines for nominations. All prospective nominators and nominees should ensure to liaise with their research office so that they do not miss any such internal deadlines.

9. Does a former recipient of a Research Ally prize meet the eligibility for Category 2?

A Research Ally prize is not an award which satisfies the eligibility criteria for Category 2 as this is not a funding award/grant which they applied for and received funding for in their own name.

10. Can maternity leave and prolonged sick leave be combined to allow eligibility for a researcher for Category 2?

Category 2 nominees must have successfully completed their highest postgraduate qualification no more than eight years prior to 1 January 2025. This period of eligibility can be extended on the grounds of eligible career breaks. Provision of documented evidence of an eligible career break will be required if an exception is to be requested

11. In Category 3, What is the word count for the nomination form?

There is no exact word count for the Category 3 nomination form. As the form states, 'A two-page limit applies to this form (Arial, 10.5), inclusive of this first page. You are free to delete the introductory material preceding 'Section One' in your submission'.

12. Is the UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities scheme an eligible IRC award for this call, in category 1-3?

The UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities **Research Grants** are an eligible IRC award for this scheme.

Please note the UK-Ireland Collaboration in the Digital Humanities **Networking Award** would be in the category of a networking/travel grant similarly to Ulysses or Lindau Meeting Award, please see the eligibility requirements under these travel/networking awards.