Principal's Prizes for Research and Engagement 2022

Awards are available in the following categories:
Outstanding Research Project: Award Categories
• PGR/ECR – STEM subjects
• PGR/ECR - Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences subjects
• Individuals at further stages of career development: STEM subjects
• Individuals at further stages of career development: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences subjects
• COVID Response and Recovery
Interdisciplinary Research Award
Success in Engagement with Industry Award
Outstanding Research Team Award
Research Impact Award
Outstanding Postgraduate Research Supervisor Award
Positive Research Culture Award
Development Trust Award for Philanthropy/Alumni Engagement
Public Engagement with Research: ECR and non-ECR categories
Public Engagement with Research: Outstanding achievement in Biomedical Sciences
Outstanding Research Project Awards

The Outstanding Research Project Awards recognise projects carried out by individual researchers or teams of researchers that are innovative or have made a significant breakthrough or a major contribution to their field.

In 2022, awards will be made in the following categories:

- Research Project - STEM subject areas (PGR or ECR nominees)
- Research Project - Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences subject areas (PGR or ECR nominees)
- Research Project – Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences subject areas (nominees at further stage of career development)
- Research Project – STEM subject areas (nominees at further stage of career development)
- Research Project – Covid response and recovery

Further information

Applicants will be required to identify a lead researcher and indicate whether the lead researcher is a PGR student or an Early Career Researcher (ECR) or at a further stage of career development.

Summary of eligibility

1. This prize is open to all staff employed in an academic or research capacity and to all postgraduate research students registered at the University of Aberdeen on the closing date.
2. Applications must demonstrate how the nominated research project has achieved impact within their field and/or influenced their field of research/expertise.
3. Applications should include research that has been presented or published within 36 months of the closing date (i.e. since October 2018).

Summary of terms

1. Nominations must be made using the form provided. Nominations are encouraged from Supervisors, Directors of Research or Heads of School. Individuals can also self-nominate.
2. You may include letters of support from external sources explaining the significance of the research to the field. Multiple letters of support should be submitted as a single pdf.
3. The decision of the judging panel is final.
4. References to REF scores are not permitted under the terms of our Institutional Code of Practice.
5. An early career researcher is defined as a researcher who has less than four years’ academic research experience (or full-time equivalent) following the completion of their PhD, or is of equivalent professional standing.
Outstanding Research Awards: Interdisciplinary Research Award
(for researchers from different fields working on an interdisciplinary project)

ELIGIBILITY

The Interdisciplinary Research Award recognises one or more researchers who have recently worked as part of an interdisciplinary team and carried out innovative research or made a significant breakthrough or a major contribution to their field through interdisciplinary working. The research must demonstrate using and integrating knowledge and methods from different disciplines and teams to generate new approaches to create new knowledge or innovation.

Summary of eligibility

1. This prize is open to all staff currently employed in an academic or research capacity at the University of Aberdeen and postgraduate research students registered at the University of Aberdeen on the closing date.
2. Applications must demonstrate how the research put forward by the applicant was interdisciplinary and how their contribution to the interdisciplinary team made a difference. The judging panel will prioritise identified projects/pieces of research as opposed to applications evidencing achievements across a number of different projects.
3. Applications should include research that has been presented or published within the last 36 months (i.e. since October 2018).

Summary of terms

1. Nominations must be made using the form provided. Nominations are encouraged from Supervisors, Directors of Research or Heads of School. Teams can self-nominate, and applicants can nominate on behalf of an interdisciplinary team. Nominations must be made using the form provided.
2. You may include letters of support from external sources explaining the significance of the research to the field. Multiple letters of support should be submitted as a single pdf.
3. The decision of the judging panel is final.
4. This is open to researchers at all stages of their career.
5. References to REF scores are not permitted under the terms of our Institutional Code of Practice.
Success in Engagement with Industry

ELIGIBILITY

The aim of this prize is to recognise successful engagement with industry that has resulted in a significant impact on the industry partner’s processes, products or services.

Summary of eligibility

1. Applications may be submitted by the academic or the industry partner or an industry body. Applications must have the support of the industry partner(s) demonstrated through one or more letters of support.
2. The judging panel will prioritise submissions that cover dedicated projects (with individual or multiple industry partners) over submissions that showcase multiple projects with industry, although the latter may also be submitted.
3. The judging panel will be seeking projects that have had a significant impact on the industry partner’s business without regard to the amount of funding or length of project.
4. More than one academic can be named within nominations, but the nomination has to make clear the contribution of each academic to the project.
5. A letter of support from industry must accompany the submission. Multiple letters of support can be submitted.
6. This prize is open to all staff currently employed in an academic or research capacity at the University of Aberdeen and postgraduate research students currently registered at the University of Aberdeen.
7. Applications must demonstrate that the industry engagement has had a real effect on or benefit to the industry partner e.g. through the development of a new procedure, process or service.
8. Industry is defined broadly as any organisation with a mission to create economic or social impact. Note that public sector organisations are not eligible.
9. Industry engagement which has started or finished within the last 36 months (i.e. since October 2018) is eligible for submission.
10. Staff or students whose primary role within the University is industry engagement are not eligible to apply.

Summary of terms

1. Nominations must be made using the form provided.
2. The decision of the judging panel is final.
3. Winning entries may be used for case studies to promote industry engagement internally and externally. Case studies will be provided to the industry partners and confidential information will not be used in case studies.
4. References to REF scores are not permitted under the terms of our Institutional Code of Practice.
Outstanding Research Team

ELIGIBILITY

The aim of this award is to recognise the achievements of a team of researchers who have worked together on a number of projects. The nomination must demonstrate the benefits of team working to the creation of new knowledge or to innovation.

Summary of eligibility

1. This prize is open to all staff currently employed in an academic or research capacity at the University of Aberdeen and postgraduate research students registered at the University of Aberdeen on the closing date.
2. Applications must demonstrate how team working has made a difference. The judging panel will prioritise identified projects/pieces of research as opposed to applications evidencing achievements across a number of different projects.
3. Applications should include research that has been presented or published within the last 36 months (i.e. since October 2018).
4. It is not necessary for all the team members to have worked on each of the projects described in the application, but each project must involve more than one member of the nominated team.

Summary of terms

1. Nominations must be made using the form provided. Nominations are encouraged from Supervisors, Directors of Research or Heads of School. Teams can self-nominate, and applicants can nominate on behalf of a team. Nominations must be made using the form provided.
2. You may include letters of support from external sources explaining the significance of the team’s research to their field(s). Multiple letters of support should be submitted as a single pdf.
3. The decision of the judging panel is final.
4. This is open to researchers at all stages of their career.
5. References to REF scores are not permitted under the terms of our Institutional Code of Practice.
**Research Impact Award**

The Impact Award recognises a project or projects carried out by individual researchers or teams of researchers that resulted in significant non-academic impact.

Non-academic impact is defined as the demonstrable effect that the research has had on society or the economy, and the benefit that the research has had on individuals, organisations or nations.

**Summary of eligibility**

1. This award is open to all staff employed in an academic or research capacity and to all postgraduate research students registered at the University of Aberdeen on the closing date.
2. Applications must demonstrate the impact achieved and the link between the research and the impact.
3. Impacts that have been submitted as part of the University’s REF2021 submission are not eligible.

**Summary of terms**

1. Nominations must be made using the form provided. Nominations are encouraged from Supervisors, Directors of Research or Heads of School. Individuals can also self-nominate.
2. You must include at least one letter of support from an external source explaining the significance of the impact. Multiple letters of support should be submitted as a single pdf.
3. The decision of the judging panel is final.
4. References to REF scores are not permitted under the terms of our Institutional Code of Practice.
5. An early career researcher is defined as a researcher who has less than four years’ academic research experience (or full-time equivalent) following the completion of their PhD, or is of equivalent professional standing.
**Outstanding Postgraduate Research Supervisors Award**

The Outstanding Postgraduate Research Supervisor Award recognises an individual who has delivered outstanding supervision to one or more doctoral research students. We are seeking nominations of supervisors who are providing a supportive, stimulating and inspirational research environment for doctoral students.

We are particularly keen to receive nominations of supervisors who demonstrate:

- Innovative (or pioneering) approaches to supervision (e.g., students from non-traditional backgrounds)
- Outstanding support for students during challenging times
- Genuine enthusiasm for supervising students
- Development of outstanding career paths for their students

Postgraduate students are also invited to nominate their supervisor for this award.

**Summary of eligibility**

1. This prize is open to all staff actively supervising doctoral students and employed at the University of Aberdeen on the closing date.
2. Nominations must demonstrate why and how the nominated staff member has provided outstanding supervision and support during their postgraduate research studies.
3. Students nominating their supervisors must be registered at the University of Aberdeen for a doctoral postgraduate research degree or must have completed their studies no more than one year prior to the closing date.

**Summary of terms**

1. Nominations from staff and students must be made using the form provided.
2. The decision of the judging panel is final.
Research Culture Award

The University of Aberdeen promotes the highest standards of research, and strives to provide a working environment that supports and rewards a positive research culture.

The Royal Society’s definition of research culture is “Research Culture encompasses the behaviours, values, expectations, attitudes and the norms of research communities. It influences who is doing research, what research is done and how it is communicated. Research culture impacts on ... integrity, diversity, career paths, reward and recognition, open science and the ethos of collaboration.”

As part of our work on promoting a positive research culture, the University of Aberdeen is seeking nominations for staff members leading initiatives, programmes or projects that are positively influencing our research culture.

Summary of eligibility

1. This prize is open to all staff currently employed at the University of Aberdeen and postgraduate research students registered at the University of Aberdeen on the closing date.
2. Nominations must explain how the nominated initiative, programme or project has provided or will provide a beneficial effect on the University’s research culture.
3. Nominations must describe work that is in progress or has been completed within two years prior to the closing date.

Summary of terms

1. Nominations must be made using the form provided. Nominations are encouraged from all staff and students at the University. Self-nominations are also welcome, and applicants can nominate on behalf of a team.
2. Nominations may include letters of support from University staff and students and from external sources explaining the significance of the nominated initiative.
3. The decision of the judging panel is final.
Public Engagement with Research

Summary of eligibility

1. Applications can be submitted by the nominee or by another member of University staff.
2. Eligible candidates must be current University of Aberdeen staff or postgraduate student.
3. Applications may not be submitted to a category the applicant has previously won.
4. Applications must demonstrate a substantive research-led approach to the public engagement undertaken. Examples may include:
   - Engaging publics about research (e.g. talks, workshops, broadcasting and media).
   - Supporting communities (e.g. working with pupils and teachers, community groups, engaging with policymakers).
   - Inspiring the next generation.
   - Addressing societal concerns.
   - Fostering collaborative or partnership approaches.
5. Supporting evidence must include contributions within the past 24 months.
6. Applications that demonstrate creative and innovative approaches to public engagement are particularly welcomed.
7. Applications should indicate any learning outcomes and experiences achieved though the public engagement and successful nominees should be willing to share these.
8. Staff and students whose primary role is around public engagement and members of the Public Engagement with Research Unit at the University of Aberdeen are ineligible for this prize.
9. Application should select the category for which they wish to be considered.
10. Applications which focus on research areas in the biomedical sciences covered by the Wellcome Trust remit will be considered for the biomedical sciences prize. Applications do not necessarily need to be funded by Wellcome Trust. The disciplines within this remit can be found here https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding

Summary of terms

1. The Principal’s Prize for Public Engagement with Research is an annual award to reflect outstanding achievement in the field of research and researcher-led public engagement.
2. Nominations should be submitted by completing the online form linked at abdn.ac.uk/excellenceawards
3. The decision of the judging panel is final
Development Trust Award for Philanthropy / Alumni Engagement

The Development and Alumni Relations Office is delighted to recognise the contributions of staff and students to philanthropic fundraising and alumni engagement. We have received tremendous support over the past year and this award will recognise any of the following activities that have contributed to the University’s strategic aims

- engagement with our alumni, including events, visits and other activities;
- engagement with donors and potential donors;
- personally giving or fundraising in aid of University initiatives;
- raising awareness of the impact and importance of philanthropic giving.

The benefits of fundraising and alumni relations impact the whole University community and this Award is intended to recognise the people that enable this across the institution.

ELIGIBILITY

The Excellence Award for Philanthropy / Alumni Engagement recognises any member of staff who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of the University through philanthropic (charitable) or alumni engagement activities (UK and/or overseas).

**Summary of eligibility**

1. This award is open to all staff currently employed at the University of Aberdeen
2. Applicants must demonstrate how they have contributed to the University’s philanthropic aims or alumni engagement activities.
3. Only one entry per applicant is allowed.
4. Applications should include examples of impactful activities from the past 12-24 months.

**Summary of terms**

Nominations must be made using the form provided. Self-nominations or nominations from the Development and Alumni Relations Office are welcomed.

The decision of the judging panel is final.