

## UCC Research Awards 2020 – Guidelines for nominations

### 1. Background and scope of the programme

University College Cork is an internationally recognised research-led institution, one of Ireland's oldest institutes of higher education.

The quality and recognition of UCC research success across all Colleges in the University, including outputs from individuals and major national Research Institutes and Centres, is measured by key research metrics such as publications, citations and collaborative interactions.

These UCC Research Awards recognise the extensive contributions made by UCC research and researchers<sup>1</sup>. They will recognise and celebrate those UCC researchers who have made exceptional and very influential research contributions, pushing boundaries, enhancing knowledge and raising the national and international research profile of University College Cork.

The UCC Research Awards will embrace all research, across the entire University Research Community, from all disciplines.

### 2. Award Categories

There are ten (10) research award categories recognising achievements of individuals (9 awards) and teams (1 award). Multiple awards might be presented in each category where more than one applicant / team merits receipt of the award.

Only one of the following awards can be presented to an individual in a given year<sup>2</sup>:

- [Cat. 1 – Best Publication of the Year involving an Undergraduate Student as an Author](#)
- [Cat. 2 – Creating a Culture for Responsible Conduct in Research](#)
- [Cat. 3 – Early Stage Researcher of the Year](#)
- [Cat. 4 – Open Researcher of the Year](#)
- [Cat. 5 – Research Communicator of the Year](#)
- [Cat. 6 – Research Supervisor of the Year](#)
- [Cat. 7 – Research Support Person of the Year](#)
- [Cat. 8 – Researcher of the Year](#)
- [Cat. 9 – Research Team of the Year](#)
- [Cat. 10 – Career Achievement Research Award](#)

#### *Cat. 1 – Best Publication of the Year involving an Undergraduate Student as an Author*

This award recognises the best publication with a UCC undergraduate student as an author or co-author based on work undertaken prior to graduation. Both the student and the senior author / project supervisor will be recognised as recipients of the award.

Publications include, but are not limited to, research article(s), book chapter(s) and conference proceedings.

<sup>1</sup> Researcher is defined as any member of the University research community, regardless of discipline or contract type.

<sup>2</sup> Calendar year is considered.

Publications involving UCC undergraduate students who have already graduated are eligible for consideration if the research was undertaken while the author was an undergraduate student. See [section 4 Nomination forms](#) for mandatory annex.

### *Cat. 2 – Creating a Culture for Responsible Conduct of Research*

UCC is committed to ensuring the highest standards of integrity in all aspects of our research.

Good research practices are based on fundamental principles of **Research Integrity** such as:

- **Reliability** in ensuring the quality of research, reflected in the design, the methodology, the analysis and the use of resources
- **Honesty** in developing, undertaking, reviewing, reporting and communicating research in a transparent, fair, full and unbiased way
- **Respect** for colleagues, research participants, society, ecosystems, cultural heritage and the environment
- **Accountability** for the research from idea to publication, for its management and organisation, for training, supervision and mentoring, and for its wider impacts.

This award recognises exceptional efforts made by researchers to foster a culture of responsible conduct of research at UCC. Such efforts can be focused broadly or more specifically in the areas of:

- Good research practices and ethics
- Data management
- Publications and authorships
- Mentoring and Supervision
- Health and Safety Management

### *Cat. 3 – Early Stage Researcher of the Year*

This award recognises early career excellence and the potential for future outstanding performance.

Are considered early-stage researchers those with **no more than ten-year** research experience since their PhD. Evidence of eligible interruptions (e.g. maternity leave, parental leave) can be used to extend the eligibility window.

For those who have not been awarded a doctoral degree, **four years of full-time equivalent** research experience may be considered as relevant.

### *Cat. 4 – Open Researcher of the Year*

[Open Science](#) is the practice of research in such a way that others can collaborate and contribute, where research data, lab notes and other research processes are freely available, under terms that enable reuse, redistribution and reproduction of the research and its underlying data and methods.

The [Open Science Monitor](#) framework provides some indicators of openness which include but are not limited to:

- Posting to pre-print archives
- Publishing in open access journals

- Archiving publications in repositories
- Developing open access journal policies as part of an editorial board
- Participating in open peer review
- Applying the FAIR Data Guidelines to ensure optimal availability of research data
- Development of policies, workshops or infrastructures in support of open science
- Establishing citizen science activities to encourage wider engagement with research
- Advocating for openness in data and publication sharing
- Taking steps to ensure reproducibility and transparency in research methodologies and in the generation and analysis of data

This award recognises researchers who have embraced the principles of open science in the research process and in the dissemination of their research outputs.

#### *Cat. 5 – Research Communicator of the Year*

This award recognises researchers who have taken a proactive approach to sharing their research with the general public, thereby raising UCC profile.

Submission formats include:

- **Op-Ed in News Outlet** (entries must be self-authored and published in a news outlet)
- **New Media** (entries may include videos, radio segments, podcast, and other works of new media)
- **Faculty cited in Media** (entries must include quotes or references to UCC research from more than one news article. Entrants must be evaluated based on number of articles in which the faculty member was cited. Faculty affiliation with UCC must be identified)

Submissions must be accessible to and intended for a broad, general public audience. They must be relevant to topics, events and issues of societal impact.

#### *Cat. 6 – Research Supervisor of the Year*

This award recognises, encourages and rewards those who have shown sustained excellence in the supervision and development of exceptional and influential researchers.

This award:

- is students-led and requires two nominators – One current postgraduate research student and One current postgraduate student or a graduate who has completed their research within the last 5 years
- follows a 2-stage assessment process – further details in [section 5 Nomination procedure](#)

#### *Cat. 7 – Research Support Person of the Year*

This award recognises that person (e.g. research coordinators, managers, administrators, etc.) who most contributed to the successful execution of research carried out by an individual, project, department, institute or centre.

### *Cat. 8 – Researcher of the Year*

This award recognises the most outstanding contribution by a UCC researcher in their research field.

Key indicators such as no. of publications; no. of PhD and/or Master students supervised; funding grants/ patents; etc. will be considered when assessing nominations to this category.

### *Cat. 9 – Research Team of the Year*

This award recognises the most outstanding contribution by a research team. It is open to research teams in a single discipline, department, project, centre or institution or across two or more disciplines, departments, centres or institutions. A Research Team can include one or more Principal Investigators, as appropriate.

Nomination to and/or acceptance of any of the individual awards does not preclude the individual from being part of a team nominated for this category.

### *Cat. 10 – Career Achievement Research Award*

This award may be presented on occasional basis to recognise the most outstanding overall performance by a UCC researcher.

## **3. Eligibility Criteria**

### *Nominee(s)*

- All UCC employees are eligible for nomination.
- Self-nominations and nominations by UCC peers are accepted.
- Self-nominations are not accepted for Cat. 6, which is student-led.
- Nominees may be involved in individual or multi –partners’ research in any discipline.
- Nominees **MUST NOT** have been the recipient of a research award in the **last 5 years**. The five-year ban does not apply to recipients of the team award.

### *Nominator(s)*

- Nominator(s) and Seconder(s) **must be**: UCC Staff members; Current and/or past postgraduate students
- An individual can nominate at most one researcher/team per category
- Nominations **must be** made using the forms provided on the RSS webpage ([Frequently Used Forms](#)). Failure to complete or comply with the requirement of the nomination procedure will result in the nomination being withdrawn without review. Canvassing will automatically disqualify.

### *Track-record*

- Nominees’ assessment will be based on their research achievements over the **12 months prior to the Research Awards submission deadline**.

#### 4. Nomination forms

Nomination forms and guidelines document are available to download from the RSS webpage ([Frequently Used Forms](#)). **List of mandatory annexes** is provided below.

<b>Award Category</b>	<b>Annex</b>
Cat. 1 Best Publication	Letter from the relevant project supervisor/HoS certifying the research was undertaken while the author was an undergraduate student
Cat. 3 Early Stage Researcher Cat. 7 Research Support Person Cat. 8 Researcher Cat. 10 Career Achievement	<p><b>Annex #1 - CV</b> (max 2 pages) – Nominee’s CV with links to IRIS for full publication and professional information. It should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Name and contact details</li> <li>2. Career profile (education and employment) &amp; research profile</li> <li>3. Mentoring and supervision profile (including numbers of current and completed MSc/PhD students directly under the nominee’s supervision)</li> <li>4. Key achievements in the <b>12 months prior to the call deadline*</b> (including measures of peer esteem, accomplishments, awards, etc.).</li> </ol> <p><b>Annex #2 - Letters of support</b> (max 1 page per letter) – <b>Two</b> letters of support from <b>external nominators</b> to provide additional information on why the nominee should receive the award.</p> <p><b>*point 4 doesn’t apply to Cat. 10</b></p>
Cat. 9 Research Team	<p><b>Annex #1 – CV</b> (max 2 pages) – Summary of research team activity with links to IRIS for full publication and professional information. It should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research profile</li> <li>2. Mentoring and supervision profile (including numbers of current and completed MSc/PhD students directly under the nominee’s supervision)</li> <li>3. Key achievements in the <b>12 months prior to the call deadline</b> (including measures of peer esteem, accomplishments, awards, etc.).</li> </ol> <p><b>Annex #2 - Letters of support</b> (max 1 page per letter) – <b>Two</b> letters of support from <b>external nominators</b> to provide additional information on why the nominee should receive the award.</p>

## 5. Nomination Procedure and Deadlines

Nominations are invited through the Colleges and Tyndall National Institute. Applicants will submit their nomination to the named Points of Contact listed below.

College	Point of Contact	Email address
Arts, Celtic Studies & Social Sciences	Helena Buffery	h.buffery@ucc.ie
Business & Law	Sean Lucey	sean.lucey@ucc.ie
Medicine & Health	Ashleigh Byrne	Ashleigh.byrne@ucc.ie
Science, Engineering & Food Science	Kate O'Brien	k.obrien@ucc.ie
Tyndall National Institute	Aine Murphy	Aine.murphy@tyndall.ie

### Deadlines for submission to the Point(s) of Contact:

- Colleges – **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020**
- Tyndall National Institute – **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020**

Each College and Tyndall will select **up to three** nominations per category for submission to the OVPRI by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020**.

## 6. Evaluation process

The UCC Research Awards Evaluation Committee, chaired by the Vice President for Research and Innovation will evaluate the nominations. Members of the Evaluation Committee include:

- Chairs of the College Research Committees
- Director of Research Support Services (RSS)
- Chair of the Academic Council for Research and Innovation Committee (ACRIC)
- Representative from Tyndall National Institute

## 7. Evaluation Criteria

*All categories but Cat. 6*

<b>Achievements*</b>	Attainment and consistency of high level achievements for a period appropriate to career stage  <b>*over the 12-month period prior to award deadline</b>
<b>Research Excellence</b>	Innovative Thinking National and International recognition of excellence (peer esteem indicators) Published outputs
<b>Impact</b>	Encouragement and promotion of young researchers, including postgraduates Research's Cultural, economic and Societal impact

*Cat. 6 – Research Supervisor of the Year*

<b>Mentoring and Supervision</b>	Effective support of research and research students towards timely completion of their thesis Effective feedback and critical advising on publishing and presentation of supervisee's work Development of research training / supervision methods
<b>Research Environment</b>	Integration of postgraduate researchers into the research community Support for supervisee's training (e.g. research skills training, conference presentation, teaching experience, other professional experience)