

2026 HDR Candidate Application Form Preview

2026 Higher Degree by Research Prizes Nomination Form

* indicates a required field

Background and Information

Every year, we honour and celebrate the remarkable accomplishments within our research community through two levels of research awards and prizes: the Vice-Chancellor's Research Awards and Prizes and RMIT Research Awards and Prizes.

The [Research Awards](#) and Prizes acknowledge the research excellence, engagement and impact achieved by research staff and Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates, while the [Research Service Awards](#) (RSAs) are presented to professional staff who deliver services that support and enable research.

This application is for the [Research Award](#) program.

In 2026, nominations for the [Research Award](#) program will run from **Friday 15 May 11:00am** to **Thursday 23 July at 3:00pm sharp**. Please try to submit early as the system accepts no applications after the cutoff.

Before you begin:

Please ensure that you have read the [Research Awards Guidelines](#) and additional supporting documents on the RMIT University [Research Awards](#) page.

Save as you go:

We suggest you click **SAVE** as you progress through your application.

Further information and contact details:

- If you require support in filling out this form due to accessibility or health issues, reach out to our team for assistance via email. - reward.recognition.research@rmit.edu.au
- If you have any questions about the Research Awards and Prizes please contact our team via email - reward.recognition.research@rmit.edu.au

Nomination Process

Per the [Research Awards Guidelines](#).

A complete nomination consists of the following:

- 1. Completion of this nomination form.**
- 2. Nominator(s) Statement** - [Nominator Support fillable template](#).
- 3. Statement(s) of Support** - [Statement of Support fillable template](#).
- 4. Curriculum vitae** - Each nominee must submit an abbreviated CV (1.5 x A4 pages maximum). Team awards require a single compiled PDF containing abbreviated CVs, maximum of 1 page per member, for all nominated team members to be submitted.
- 5. Google Scholar / Google Scholar Profile Link** - Provide a link to the Google Scholar Profile, and / or the relevant research of the nominee(s).

Higher Degree by Research Prize Categories

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Nominations falling within a specific prize category will be evaluated for both the Vice-Chancellor's Research Awards and RMIT Research Awards within that category. For example, should a nomination be for the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Research Excellence category (HDR), the same applicant will automatically qualify for evaluation for the RMIT Prize for Research Excellence (HDR).

Please select the Prize being applied for from the list below.

Research Awards Categories *

- Prize for Research Excellence (Higher Degree by Research)
- Prize for Research Engagement and Impact (Higher Degree by Research)

Declaration

[Award Guidelines.](#)

I declare that I have read and understand the Guidelines, and information above, and can confirm I am eligible to nominate for this Award or Prize: *

- Yes

Page 1: Nominee Details

* indicates a required field

Individual Nominee Details

Nominee Details *

Title	First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Which most accurately describes you? *

- Man or male
- Woman or female
- Non-binary
- Trans or gender diverse
- Prefer not to respond
- I use a different term (please specify)
- Other:

If you prefer to use a different term, please specify in the text field above.

Do you identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander? *

- Yes - Aboriginal
- Yes - Torres Strait Islander
- Yes - both
- Prefer not to say / unknown
- No

RMIT employee number (Please include 'e' or 'v' in front of the number). *

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If you do not have an employee number, then please use your student number

College / School *

RMIT Email address *

Nominee Google Scholar / Google Scholar Profile Link *

Must be a URL.

Has this nominee been the recipient of an RMIT Research Award or Prize in previous rounds? *

- Yes
 No

Previous winners can be found on our website at: <https://www.rmit.edu.au/research/our-research/research-awards>

Award / Prize Details

Previous winners can be found on the [Research Awards](#) website.

Please specify the award / prize category and year it was awarded. *

Please note that nominees are ineligible to apply for the same or similar categories for a 3-year period.

HDR Completion Status

Will you complete, or have you already completed, your RMIT HDR degree between 1 January 2025 - 23 July 2026? *

- Yes
 No

Which type of qualification did you complete or are you currently completing? *

- Masters
 PhD

Interdisciplinary Research

Is the research supporting the nominee's nomination interdisciplinary? *

- Yes
 No

Interdisciplinary Details

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Please explain the interdisciplinary nature of the research supporting the nomination. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 150 words.

Curriculum Vitae

Individual nominees must provide an abbreviated current CV (1.5 x A4 pages maximum).

Abbreviated CV *

Attach a file:

A maximum of 1 file may be attached.

Page 2: Higher Degree by Research - Nomination Questions

* indicates a required field

Prize for Research Excellence (Higher Degree by Research)

Please refer to the 'Awards for Research Excellence' section within the [Award Guidelines](#) for specific information about this award type.

Other helpful links for completing this section:

- RMIT [core values](#).
- RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#).
- RMIT's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

The nomination will be judged against the following criteria.

Criterion 1: Research Excellence. (max 500 words)

Focus primarily on the research completed during candidature at RMIT. Please address the nominee's 2–3 strongest examples only. Short paragraphs or bullet points may be used.

- The research and its significance

What is the relevant research, project, program, creative practice, or body of work, and what is most significant, original, or discipline-advancing about it?

- Outputs during candidature

What reportable publications, presentations, creative works, IP, awards, or other outputs were produced during candidature?

- Evidence of quality and recognition

What are the strongest indicators of excellence? These may include publication quality, citations, IP generation, prizes, best paper awards, commissions, external recognition, or other discipline-appropriate evidence.

- Timely progress during candidature

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What evidence shows timely and effective progress during candidature?

Please explain this briefly and practically, with reference to the work described above rather than in general terms.

Criterion 2: Contribution to RMIT core values. (max 150 words)

Select the one or two RMIT core values most relevant to this nomination and explain:

- how the nominee demonstrated those values in practice at RMIT
- one concrete example of behaviour, leadership, collaboration, or decision-making
- why that mattered to the research, candidature, peers, supervisors, collaborators, or broader research environment

Please focus on observed behaviour and contribution rather than broad statements of alignment.

Criterion 1: Research Excellence. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 500 words.

Consider the following when preparing your response. Focus primarily on the research completed during candidature at RMIT. Please address the nominee's 2-3 strongest examples only. Short paragraphs or bullet points may be used. The research and its significance: What is the relevant research, project, program, creative practice, or body of work, and what is most significant, original, or discipline-advancing about it? Outputs during candidature: What reportable publications, presentations, creative works, IP, awards, or other outputs were produced during candidature? Evidence of quality and recognition: What are the strongest indicators of excellence? These may include publication quality, citations, IP generation, prizes, best paper awards, commissions, external recognition, or other discipline-appropriate evidence. Timely progress during candidature: What evidence shows timely and effective progress during candidature? Please explain this briefly and practically, with reference to the work described above rather than in general terms.

Criterion 2: Contribution to RMIT core values. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 150 words.

Consider the following when preparing your response. Select the one or two RMIT core values most relevant to this nomination and explain: how the nominee demonstrated those values in practice at RMIT; one concrete example of behaviour, leadership, collaboration, or decision-making; and why that mattered to the research, candidature, peers, supervisors, collaborators, or broader research environment. Please focus on observed behaviour and contribution rather than broad statements of alignment.

Prize for Research Engagement and Impact (Higher Degree by Research)

Please refer to the 'Awards for Research Engagement and Impact' section within the [Award Guidelines](#) for specific information about this award type.

Other helpful links for completing this section:

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- RMIT [core values](#).
- RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#).
- RMIT's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

The nomination will be judged against the following criteria.

Criterion 1: Research Engagement and Impact. (max 500 words)

Focus primarily on the research completed during candidature at RMIT. Please address the nominee's 2–3 strongest examples only. Short paragraphs or bullet points may be used.

- The research and its relevance

What is the relevant research, project, program, creative practice, or body of work, and what is the underlying research that gives rise to the potential for engagement and impact?

- Engagement outside the academic community

Who has the nominee engaged with outside academia, and how has that engagement supported the potential for impact, translation, uptake, or broader benefit?

- Potential for research engagement and impact

What is the potential for this research to achieve meaningful impact beyond academia, and for whom? This may include societal, environmental, cultural, economic, policy, practice, industry, health, or community benefit.

- Other contributions beyond the discipline

What other contributions demonstrate research collaboration, research excellence, or leadership beyond the discipline?

- Timely progress during candidature

What evidence shows timely and effective progress during candidature?

Please explain this briefly and practically, with reference to the work described above rather than in general terms.

Criterion 2: Contribution to RMIT core values. (max 150 words)

Select the one or two RMIT core values most relevant to this nomination and explain:

- how the nominee demonstrated those values in practice at RMIT
- one concrete example of behaviour, leadership, collaboration, or decision-making
- why that mattered to the research, candidature, peers, supervisors, collaborators, partners, or broader research environment

Please focus on observed behaviour and contribution rather than broad statements of alignment.

Criterion 1: Research Engagement and Impact. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 500 words.

Consider the following when preparing your response. Focus primarily on the research completed during candidature at RMIT. Please address the nominee's 2–3 strongest examples only. Short paragraphs or bullet points may be used. The research and its relevance What is the relevant

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research, project, program, creative practice, or body of work, and what is the underlying research that gives rise to the potential for engagement and impact? Engagement outside the academic community Who has the nominee engaged with outside academia, and how has that engagement supported the potential for impact, translation, uptake, or broader benefit? Potential for research engagement and impact What is the potential for this research to achieve meaningful impact beyond academia, and for whom? This may include societal, environmental, cultural, economic, policy, practice, industry, health, or community benefit. Other contributions beyond the discipline What other contributions demonstrate research collaboration, research excellence, or leadership beyond the discipline? Timely progress during candidature What evidence shows timely and effective progress during candidature? Please explain this briefly and practically, with reference to the work described above rather than in general terms.

Criterion 2: Contribution to RMIT core values. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 150 words.

Consider the following when preparing your response. Select the one or two RMIT core values most relevant to this nomination and explain: how the nominee demonstrated those values in practice at RMIT one concrete example of behaviour, leadership, collaboration, or decision-making why that mattered to the research, candidature, peers, supervisors, collaborators, partners, or broader research environment Please focus on observed behaviour and contribution rather than broad statements of alignment.

Page 3: Statements of Support

* indicates a required field

Statements of Support - Details and Documentation

Each nomination application must include:

- At least one statement must be from the candidate's supervisor, and at least one must be from the relevant HDR coordinator, for the nomination to be eligible for a prize.

Please refer to the [Award Guidelines](#) for information on the type of support statement(s), person(s) who can provide them, and preferred format.

- **the [nominator's statement](#) / [statement of support](#) should ideally be written by the nominator / supporter directly, and**
- **support statements should address the selection criteria for the selected award category, focusing on the strongest relevant work.**

Please download the following templates:

1. **Nominator(s) Statement** - [Nominator Support fillable template.](#)
2. **Statement of Support** - [Statement of Support fillable template.](#)

Please note: Dean / Head of School endorsement will be sought separately in bulk by the Research Awards Team before assessment; however, a Dean / Head of School may still act as a nominator or provide a statement of support.

Nominator Statement

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Please upload a statement from the nominee's nominator. A nominator can also be the Dean, Head of School, EIP Director, Research Centre Director or equivalent.

Please NOTE: At least one statement must be from the candidate's supervisor, and at least one must be from the relevant HDR coordinator, for the nomination to be eligible for a prize.

Please use the appropriate template:

- the **nominator's statement** should ideally be written by the nominator directly, and
- nominator statements should address the **selection criteria for the selected award category**, focusing on the strongest relevant work.

Nominator(s) Statement - [Nominator Support fillable template.](#)

Nominator's Name *

Title	First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Relationship to the Nominee *

- Dean / Head of School
- EIP Director
- Research Centre Director
- Nominee's supervisor
- Relevant HDR coordinator
- Other:

If other, please specify.

Please upload the nomination statement. *

Attach a file:

At least one statement must be from the candidate's supervisor, and at least one must be from the relevant HDR coordinator, for the nomination to be eligible for a prize.

Statement of Support

Please NOTE: At least one statement must be from the candidate's supervisor, and at least one must be from the relevant HDR coordinator, for the nomination to be eligible for a prize.

If the supervisor is also the nominator then a statement of support is required from the relevant HDR coordinator and vice versa.

Please use the appropriate template:

- the **Statement of Support** should ideally be written by the supporter directly, and
- support statements should address the **selection criteria for the selected award category**, focusing on the strongest relevant work.

Statement of Support - [Statement of Support fillable template.](#)

Name of person providing statement of support #1 *

Title	First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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Relationship to the Nominee *

- Dean / Head of School
- EIP Director
- Research Centre Director
- External party familiar with the research
- Relevant HDR coordinator
- Nominee's supervisor

Please upload the Statement of Support. *

Attach a file:

At least one statement must be from the candidate's supervisor, and at least one must be from the relevant HDR coordinator, for the nomination to be eligible for a prize.

Additional Statement(s) of Support

Please NOTE: At least one statement must be from the candidate's supervisor, and at least one must be from the relevant HDR coordinator, for the nomination to be eligible for a prize.

Please refer to the [Award Guidelines](#) for information on the type of support statement(s), person(s) who can provide them, and preferred format.

- the **nominator's statement / statement of support** should ideally be written by the nominator / supporter directly, and
- support statements should address the selection criteria for the selected award category, focusing on the strongest relevant work.

Please download the following templates:

1. **Nominator(s) Statement** - [Nominator Support fillable template.](#)
2. **Statement of Support** - [Statement of Support fillable template.](#)

Please upload any additional Statement(s) of Support.

Attach a file:

Page 4: Nomination Declaration

* indicates a required field

Declaration

Who is submitting this form? *

- The nominator
- The nominee

Nominator / Delegate Declaration

Nominator Declaration *

I confirm my support of this nomination form for evaluation by the Research Awards Panel.

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- I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this form is true and accurate.
- I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, the application and any supporting materials are authentic and derived from the nominee(s)' own work.

Nominee / Delegate Declaration

Nominee Declaration *

- I understand that I am submitting this nomination form on behalf of the nominator with their agreement.
- I declare that the information provided in this form is true, accurate and can be used in all official communication and documents.
- I certify that the application and any supporting materials are authentic and derived from my / our own work.

Privacy Collection Statement

The Research and Innovation Capability team is collecting the information in this form to record administrative details of the nominee, and for assessment of the Awards by the relevant selection panels and personnel involved in the delivery of this program.

If the College of Design and Social Context proceeds with a 2026 College Research Awards process, nominee and nominator details from the College of Design and Social Context may also be shared with the DSC College Awards team for consideration.

For additional details on how the University handles personal data, please visit the RMIT University webpage and review the [Privacy Policy](#).

Feedback

You are now nearing the end of the application process. Before you review your nomination and click SUBMIT please take a moment to provide some feedback.

How did you find the nomination process?

- Very easy
- Easy
- Okay
- Difficult
- Very difficult

Please feel free to provide us with any comments or improvement suggestions.