

2023 Research Awards

Guidelines and categories



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Overview

Research Awards and Prizes

Every year, we honour and celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of 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. These esteemed awards are offered across two categories – **Research Excellence**; and **Research Engagement and Impact** – which showcase the best of our research community. The Research Awards and Prizes program places a distinct emphasis on recognizing outstanding achievements in research excellence, as well as in research engagement and impact.

The RMIT research community, honoured in these awards, include research teams, early career researchers, senior- and mid-career researchers, higher degree by research (HDR) candidates and their supervisors, all of whom have significantly contributed to advancing research within and outside of the academy.

- **The Vice-Chancellor's Research Awards and Prizes** are the pinnacle of research distinction within the University.
- **The RMIT Research Awards and Prizes** are a recognition of the talent within our research community and run parallel with the Vice-Chancellor's Research Awards and Prizes.

Collectively, both levels of awards provide a platform to amplify the achievements of those who have made a profound impact – regardless of the current stage in their research journey. These awards are by nomination only and reflect RMIT's commitment to recognising the achievements of others.

Key changes from 2023

- Award categories have been aligned with the RMIT's Knowledge with Action Strategy.
- New eligibility enables mid-career researchers and research teams to be recognised via designated awards.
- Prize money will be paid via payroll for staff and direct bank deposits for HDR candidates. Expenditure restrictions have been removed.
- Nominations falling within a specific awards 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 submitted for a research team under the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Team) category, that same team will automatically qualify for assessment for the RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Team) as well.

Key dates for 2023

Tuesday 29 August 2023 3pm	Round Opens
Monday 25 September 2023 12pm	Round Closes and full nominations due via SmartyGrants
November 2023	Notification of Outcomes
Monday 20 November 2023	Vice-Chancellor's Awards Ceremony
Quarter One 2024	RMIT Awards Ceremony

Award Categories and cohorts

The following table lists the award categories, award names, monetary prize, and eligible academic cohort.

Category: Research Excellence	Prize	Individuals or Teams	Eligible academic cohort
Award Name			
Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence	\$10,000	Either	Open, mid-career researcher , early career researchers , research teams
Vice-Chancellor's Award in Graduate Research Supervision	\$10,000	Individual	HDR Supervisors
Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Research Excellence (HDR)	\$3,000	Individual	Recent HDR graduates
RMIT Award for Research Excellence	\$3,000	Both	Open, mid-career researcher , early career researchers , research teams
RMIT Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Leadership	\$3,000	Individual	HDR Supervisors
RMIT Prize for Research Excellence (HDR)	\$1,500	Individual	Recent HDR graduates

Category: Research Engagement and Impact	Prize	Individuals or Teams	Eligible academic cohort
Award Name			
Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact	\$10,000	Either	Open, mid-career researcher , early career researchers , research teams
Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Research Engagement and Impact (HDR)	\$3,000	Individual	Current HDR candidates
RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact	\$3,000	Either	Open, mid-career researcher , early career researchers , research teams
RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact – Industry Engagement in Graduate Research	\$3,000	Either	Individual or team of HDR Supervisors
RMIT Prize for Research Engagement and Impact (HDR)	\$1,500	Individual	Current HDR candidates

General Eligibility

- All Research Awards and Prizes (including HDR prizes) are by nomination only. Self-nominations are not permitted.
- Nominees must have been employed at RMIT for a minimum of two years.
- For those awards open to academic staff, nominees must have an RMIT appointment that is current until the end of 2023.
- We strongly encourage interdisciplinary nominations for all awards. This entails that both the research and researcher(s) can span across multiple disciplines.
- RMIT's commitment to achievement relative to opportunity ([ARtO](#)) is applicable to all research awards. Career interruptions and other exemptions relating to eligibility will be considered during assessment of the nomination by the research awards panel.
- For team nominations, the Team Leader must have been at RMIT for a minimum of 2 years.
- All staff and/or HDRs nominated for team awards must have had a significant role in the research to which the nomination applies.
- HDRs, professional staff, and casual staff can be included in team nominations.
- Nominees can be from any part of the University.
- Research teams within Research Centres/Institutes are ineligible to be nominated for team awards.
- It is allowable to be nominated in more than one award category (Research Excellence, or Research Engagement and Impact).
- Assessment panel members may also be nominators but are unable to assess their own nominees.
- Unsuccessful nominees from previous rounds can be re-submitted however nominations must respond to updated selection criteria.
- Previous winners are not eligible to be nominated for the same or similar categories.
- Nominees must ensure that all reportable research output information has been submitted via the [Research Outputs Capture form](#).
- Evidence of research excellence or research engagement and impact may include awards, prizes, non-traditional research outputs, citation data, grants, and fellowships.

General Eligibility - (Higher Degree by Research)

- Nominees for the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Research Excellence (HDR) and the RMIT Prize for Research Excellence (HDR) must have completed their RMIT HDR degree between the beginning of the preceding calendar year and the award's nomination deadline (i.e., January 1, 2022 - September 25, 2023).
 - Nominees must have completed their degree on time, within four years for a PhD or two years for a Masters (EFTSL).
 - Eligibility requires the thesis/project to be classified as C1 – Passed or C2 – Passed subject to minor amendments.
- Nominees for the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Research Impact (HDR) and RMIT Prize for Research Impact (HDR) must be current RMIT University HDR candidates who have completed their Confirmation of Candidature and have not yet graduated by the award's deadline.

Nomination process

All Research Awards and Prizes are by nomination only (with the nominee's consent). Individuals or teams are nominated by someone else via the online form. The online form is completed and submitted with the contribution of the nominator and the nominee.

- Nominations falling within a specific awards 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 submitted for a research team under the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Team) category, that same team will automatically qualify for evaluation for the RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Team).

A complete nomination consists of the following:

- **Online form**—Completed by the nominator(s) and the nominee(s) addressing the selection criteria submitted via the SmartyGrants portal.
- **Statements of Support**—A minimum of two statements of support must be completed and uploaded with the online form via the SmartyGrants portal before submission. Multiple Statements of Support are encouraged.
- **Curriculum vitae**—An abbreviated CV (1.5 x A4 pages maximum). Each nominee must submit an abbreviated CV. Team awards require at least the team leader's CV and can include team members' abbreviated CVs.
- **Endorsement**—Email endorsement from the respective Dean/Head of School or their delegate must be uploaded into the online form before submission. Please note that a Dean/Head of School or their delegate can also be the nominator.

Statements of Support

- Statements of support are written by specific parties who are actively supporting the nominee(s) for the award or prize.
- Statements of support written by a nominator(s) should address the selection criteria.
- At least one nominator must be a RMIT academic staff member.
- Additional statements of support can be written by either an RMIT academic or professional staff member, a person external to RMIT who is familiar with the nominee's field of research achievements, or a person external to RMIT who has benefitted from the research.
- **HDR nominees** must provide at least one statement of support from at least one of the candidate's supervisors.
- **HDR nominees** must provide one statement of support from the relevant HDR coordinator.
- **HDR Supervisor nominees** must provide at least one statement of support from one of their own HDR graduates and a second statement of support from the relevant HDR Coordinator or Dean, Head of School, EIP Director, Research Centre Directors or equivalent. Please note that specific nomination requirements may apply for Awards for HDR Supervisors.

Selection Process

Selection of research award recipients is by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation based on the recommendations of the Research Awards Panel. The Research Awards Panel (“the Panel”) is a subcommittee of the DVC Research & Innovation Executive Committee.

- Nominations falling within a given awards category will be evaluated for both the Vice-Chancellor’s Research Awards and RMIT Research Awards schemes, within that category. For example, should a nomination be submitted for a research team under the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Team) category, that same team will automatically qualify for evaluation for the RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Team) as well.
- The Panel has the discretion to consider any nominations for more than one category of award, including categories under both the Vice-Chancellor’s Research Awards and Prizes and the RMIT Research Awards and Prizes.
- The Panel may use information in ResearchMaster to validate evidence provided in nominations.
- Incomplete nominations will not be considered by the Panel.

Prizes and Ceremony

The Vice-Chancellor’s Research Awards and Prizes will comprise:

- A cash prize between \$3,000 and \$10,000 with prize money paid via payroll (staff) or direct deposit (HDR).
- A certificate signed by the Vice-Chancellor.
- A permanent record of the award on an appropriate webpage (Honour Board) of the University.
- Commemorative trophy.

The RMIT Research Awards and Prizes will comprise:

- A cash prize between \$1,500 and \$3,000 with prize money paid via payroll (staff) or direct deposit (HDR).
- A certificate signed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Innovation.
- A permanent record of the award on an appropriate webpage (Honour Board) of the University.
- Commemorative trophy.

Awards Descriptions and Selection Criteria

Awards for Research Excellence

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Open)

\$10,000

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence recognises an individual researcher who has achieved the highest level of excellence in their research activity for the preceding five years regardless of their career stage. The purpose of this Award is to recognise and encourage outstanding researchers with proven international reputations undertaking research of significant importance in its field, and who have made a significant contribution in advancing knowledge and research outcomes.

RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Open)

\$3,000

The RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Open) recognises an individual researcher who has achieved the highest level of excellence in their research activity for the preceding five years regardless of their career stage. The purpose of this Award is to recognise and encourage outstanding researchers with proven international reputations undertaking research that is of significant importance in its field and who have made a significant contribution in advancing knowledge and research outcomes.

Eligibility

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Open) and the RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Open) are open to any researcher regardless of career stage.

Selection criteria

Nominations for both the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Open) and the RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Open) will be judged on the following criteria:

Research Excellence (60%)

- Significance of the research in contributing to new knowledge and/or innovations in the discipline.
- Evidence of sustained and excellent research performance, relative to opportunity, particularly in the past five years. Performance should be considered against quality indicators and norms for research performance within a given discipline, in addition to more general measures of competitive research grant or commercial research income, publications and HDR candidate supervisions/completions, or supporting documentation for creative works such as inclusion in selective exhibition, positive critical review, commissioning by significant bodies, etc.

Research engagement and impact (30%)

- Evidence of research engagement both within and outside of the academic community.
- Evidence of the impact that this research has created, or has the potential to create, and an end user benefit in terms of economic, societal, and environmental outcomes.

- Other contributions demonstrating research collaboration or leadership beyond the discipline.
- Demonstrated alignment with at least one of RMIT's five research actions referenced in the RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#).
 1. Deepen research impact culture and capabilities
 2. Foster partnerships for sustained impact at scale
 3. Scale up applied, transdisciplinary research
 4. Grow impact-focused research training
 5. Accelerate research translation and commercialisation

Contribution to RMIT core values (10%)

- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Team)

\$10,000

The Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence (Team) recognises a team of RMIT researchers who have collectively demonstrated excellence in their research activity. The purpose of this award is to recognise and encourage outstanding teams of researchers undertaking research that is of major importance in its field and who have made a significant contribution in advancing knowledge and research outcomes.

RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Team)

\$3,000

The RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Team) recognises a team of RMIT researchers who have collectively demonstrated excellence in their research activity. The purpose of this Award is to recognise and encourage outstanding teams of researchers undertaking research that is of major importance in its field and who have made a significant contribution in advancing knowledge and research outcomes.

Selection criteria

Nominations for both the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Team) and the RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Team) will be judged on the following criteria:

Research Excellence (60%)

- Significance of the team's research in contributing to new knowledge and/or innovations in the discipline.
- Evidence of the team's sustained and excellent research performance, relative to opportunity, particularly in the past five years. Performance includes not only general metrics like competitive research grants and awards, commercial research income, publications, HDR supervision/completions but also quality indicators and established benchmarks specific to the discipline. Supporting evidence for creative works such as inclusion in selective exhibitions, positive critical review, commissioning by significant bodies, will be considered.

Research engagement and impact (30%)

- Evidence of research engagement both within and outside of the academic community.
- Demonstrated national and international recognition and impact, or potential impact, of the research.
- Evidence of the impact that this research has created, or has the potential to create, and an end user benefit in terms of economic, societal, and environmental outcomes.
- Evidence of research collaborations. This can include collaborative approaches involving academia, schools and colleges, cross-campus collaboration between RMIT Vietnam or RMIT Europe, engagement with industry, interdisciplinary teamwork as well as mentorship and training initiatives of early career researchers and HDR students.
- Demonstrated alignment with at least one of RMIT's five research actions referenced in the RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#).
 1. Deepen research impact culture and capabilities
 2. Foster partnerships for sustained impact at scale
 3. Scale up applied, transdisciplinary research

4. Grow impact-focused research training
5. Accelerate research translation and commercialisation

Contribution to RMIT core values (10%)

- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Mid-Career Researcher)

\$10,000

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Mid-Career Researcher) recognises an individual Mid-Career Researcher (MCR) who has achieved the highest level of excellence in their research activity. The purpose of this Award is to recognise and encourage outstanding researchers with proven international reputations undertaking research that is of significant importance in its field and who have made a significant contribution in advancing knowledge and research outcomes.

RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Mid-Career Researcher)

\$3,000

The RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Mid-Career Researcher) recognises an individual Mid-Career Researcher (MCR) who has achieved the highest level of excellence in their research activity. The purpose of this Award is to recognise and encourage outstanding researchers with proven international reputations undertaking research that is of significant importance in its field and who have made a significant contribution in advancing knowledge and research outcomes.

Eligibility

In addition to the general eligibility, those eligible for nomination are MCR academics who are between 5 to 15 years' research experience since the award of a PhD or equivalent qualification at the time of the nomination closing date or longer if combined with periods of significant career interruption (see [RMIT's Achievement Relative to Opportunity Policy](#)).¹

Selection criteria

Nominations for both the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Mid-Career Researcher) and the RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Mid-Career Researcher) will be judged on the following criteria:

Research Excellence (60%)

- Significance of the research in contributing to new knowledge and/or innovations in the discipline.
- Evidence of sustained and excellent research performance, relative to opportunity, particularly in the past five years. Performance should be considered against quality indicators and norms for research performance within a

¹ Australian Research Council definition of a Mid-Career Researcher is used. <https://www.arc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-10/ARC%20Annual%20Report%202021%E2%80%9322.pdf>

given discipline, in addition to more general measures of competitive research grant or commercial research income, publications and HDR candidate supervisions/completions, or supporting documentation for creative works such as inclusion in selective exhibition, positive critical review, commissioning by significant bodies, etc.

Research engagement and impact (30%)

- Evidence of research engagement both within and outside of the academic community.
- Evidence of the impact that this research has created, or has the potential to create, and an end user benefit in terms of economic, societal, and environmental outcomes.
- Other contributions demonstrating research collaboration or leadership beyond the discipline.
- Demonstrated alignment with at least one of RMIT's five research actions referenced in the RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#).
 1. Deepen research impact culture and capabilities
 2. Foster partnerships for sustained impact at scale
 3. Scale up applied, transdisciplinary research
 4. Grow impact-focused research training
 5. Accelerate research translation and commercialisation

Contribution to RMIT core values (10%)

- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Early Career Researcher)

\$10,000

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Early Career Researcher) recognises an individual early career academic (ECR) who has achieved the highest level of excellence in their research activity for the preceding three years. The purpose of this Award is to recognise and encourage outstanding researchers undertaking research that is of significant importance in its field and who have made a significant contribution in advancing knowledge and research outcomes.

RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Early Career Researcher)

\$3,000

The RMIT Award for Research Excellence – Early Career Researcher (ECR) recognises an RMIT early career academic who has achieved the highest level of excellence in their research activity for the preceding three years. The purpose of this Award is to recognise and encourage outstanding researchers undertaking research that is of significant importance in its field and who have made a significant contribution in advancing knowledge and research outcomes.

Eligibility

In addition to the general eligibility, those eligible for nomination are ECR academics who have been awarded a PhD or equivalent qualification for a period of less than or equal to 5 years at the time of their nomination or longer if combined with periods of significant career interruption (see [RMIT's Achievement Relative to Opportunity Policy](#)).²

Selection criteria

Nominations for both the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Excellence (Early Career Researcher) and the RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Early Career Researcher) will be judged on the following criteria:

Research Excellence (60%)

- Significance of the research in contributing to new knowledge and/or innovations in the discipline.
- Evidence of sustained and excellent research performance, relative to opportunity, particularly in the past three years. Performance should be considered against quality indicators and norms for research performance within a given discipline, in addition to more general measures of competitive research grant or commercial research income, publications and HDR candidate supervisions/completions, or supporting documentation for creative works such as inclusion in selective exhibition, positive critical review, commissioning by significant bodies, etc.

Research engagement and impact (30%)

- Evidence of research engagement both within and outside of the academic community.
- Evidence of the impact that this research has created, or has the potential to create, and an end user benefit in terms of economic, societal, and environmental outcomes.
- Other contributions demonstrating research collaboration or leadership beyond the discipline.

² Australian Research Council definition of an Early career researcher is used. <https://www.arc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-10/ARC%20Annual%20Report%202021%E2%80%9322.pdf>

- Demonstrated alignment with at least one of RMIT's five research actions referenced in the RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#).
 1. Deepen research impact culture and capabilities
 2. Foster partnerships for sustained impact at scale
 3. Scale up applied, transdisciplinary research
 4. Grow impact-focused research training
 5. Accelerate research translation and commercialisation

Contribution to RMIT core values (10%)

- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision

\$10,000

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision recognises an individual who demonstrates a track record of successful HDR candidate outcomes and engagement in high quality supervisory practice and research supervision leadership.

The recipient of this Award is nominated by RMIT for the Australian Council of Graduate Research Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision the following year.

Eligibility

In addition to the General Eligibility, this Award is open to all eligible academic staff who meet the following:

- A registered supervisor who is currently engaged in research supervision at RMIT.
- Nominees must have a continuing or contract position at no less than .4 EFT for a minimum of two years at the time of application.
- Possess a cumulative supervisory record of at least 10 HDR successful and timely completions, spanning across any university.

Nomination process

Statements of Support for this award must include the following:

- A Statement of Support which addresses the selection criteria prepared by an HDR graduate.
- A Statement of Support which addresses the selection criteria prepared by an industry partner.

*Please see the [Nomination Process](#) section in the guidelines for full details.

Selection Criteria

Nominations will be judged on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated engagement in high quality and innovative research supervision practice.
- Co-publication, co-presentation, or production of other research outputs with their candidates.
- Development of HDR candidate's employability skills and professional networks.

- Promotion of HDR student engagement beyond academe.
- Evidence of positive post-graduation outcomes of candidates.
- Leadership in research supervision including the provision of mentoring to less experienced supervisors.
- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

RMIT Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Leadership

\$3,000

The RMIT Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision recognises an individual who demonstrates a track record of successful HDR candidate outcomes and engagement in high quality supervisory practice and research supervision leadership.

The recipient of this Award is nominated by RMIT for the Australian Council of Graduate Research Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Leadership the following year.

Eligibility

In addition to the General Eligibility, this Award is open to all eligible academic staff who meet the following:

- A registered supervisor who is currently engaged in research supervision at RMIT.
- Nominees must have a continuing or contract position at no less than .4 EFT for a minimum of two years at the time of application.
- Possess a cumulative supervisory record of at least 5 HDR successful and timely completions, spanning across any university.
- HDR Supervisor nominees must provide at least one statement of support from one of their own HDR graduates and a second statement of support from the relevant HDR Coordinator or Dean, Head of School, EIP Director or equivalent.

Nomination process

Statements of Support for this award must include the following:

- A Statement of Support which addresses the selection criteria prepared by an HDR graduate.
- A Statement of Support which addresses the selection criteria prepared by an industry partner.

*Please see the [Nomination Process](#) section in the guidelines for full details.

Selection Criteria

Nominations will be judged on the following criteria:

- Contributions to initiatives that have enabled a strong and supportive intellectual community for HDR candidates within their academic unit.
- Development and maintenance of high quality and innovative HDR and/or skill development programs.
- Providing effective support and mentoring for HDR supervisors.
- Development and strengthening of institutional and local HDR strategy and policy.
- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Research Excellence (Higher Degree by Research)

\$3,000

The Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Research Excellence (Higher Degree by Research) recognises an outstanding Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidate who has achieved the highest levels of excellence in research during the completion of their degree.

RMIT Prize for Research Excellence (Higher Degree by Research)

\$1,500

The RMIT Award for Research Excellence (Higher Degree by Research) recognises an outstanding Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidate who has achieved the highest levels of excellence in research during the completion of their degree.

Eligibility

Nominees for the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Research Excellence (HDR) and the RMIT Prize for Research Excellence (HDR) must have completed their RMIT HDR degree between the beginning of the preceding calendar year and the award's nomination deadline (i.e., 1 January – 22 September 2023).

- Nominees must have completed their degree on time, within four years for a PhD or two years for a Masters (EFTSL).
- Eligibility requires the thesis/project to be classified as C1 – Passed or C2 – Passed subject to minor amendments.

Selection criteria

Nominations for both the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Research Excellence (Higher Degree by Research) and the RMIT Prize for Research Excellence (Higher Degree by Research) will be judged on the following criteria:

Research Excellence (60%)

- Potential significance of the research in contributing to new knowledge and/or innovations in the discipline.
- Reportable publications, presentations, and other outputs produced during candidature (including citation rates, IP generation, best paper awards, or other external recognition during candidates via major creative work commissions, etc).
- Evidence of timely progress during candidature.

Research Engagement and Impact (30%)

- Evidence of the potential for the nominee's research to have impact through engagement outside of the academic community.
- Details about the underlying research and the potential for research engagement and/or translation.
- Other contributions demonstrating research collaboration or leadership beyond the discipline.

Contribution to RMIT core values (10%)

- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

Awards for Research Engagement and Impact

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Open)

\$10,000

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Open) recognises an individual researcher whose research, over the past five years, has achieved or shown the potential to achieve considerable research engagement and impact outside the academic community. The definition of impact for this Award includes the demonstrable contribution that research makes to society, the arts and culture, national security, manufacturing, public policy or services, design, health, the environment and biodiversity, the economy, quality of life, or in other spheres beyond contributions to academia.

RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Open)

\$3,000

The RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact recognises an individual researcher whose research, over the past five years, has either realised or shown the potential to realise significant research engagement and impact outside the academic community. The definition of impact for this award includes the demonstrable contribution that research makes to society, the arts and culture, national security, manufacturing, public policy or services, design, health, the environment and biodiversity, the economy, quality of life, or in other spheres beyond contributions to academia.

Eligibility

This award is open to any researcher regardless of career stage.

Selection criteria

Nominations for both the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Open) and the RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Open) will be judged on the following criteria:

Research Engagement and Impact (60%)

- Evidence of research engagement both within and outside of the academic community.
- Evidence of the impact that this research has created, or has the potential to create, and an end user benefit in terms of economic, societal, and environmental outcomes.
- Other contributions demonstrating research collaboration or leadership beyond the discipline.

- Demonstrated alignment with at least one of RMIT's five research actions referenced in the RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#).
 1. Deepen research impact culture and capabilities
 2. Foster partnerships for sustained impact at scale
 3. Scale up applied, transdisciplinary research
 4. Grow impact-focused research training
 5. Accelerate research translation and commercialisation

Research Excellence (30%)

- Significance of the research in contributing to new knowledge and/or innovations in the discipline.
- Evidence of sustained and excellent research performance, relative to opportunity, particularly in the past five years. Performance should take into account not only general metrics like competitive research grants and awards, commercial research income, publications, HDR supervision/completions but also quality indicators and established benchmarks specific to the discipline. Supporting evidence for creative works such as inclusion in selective exhibitions, positive critical review, commissioning by significant bodies, will be considered.

Contribution to RMIT core values (10%)

- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Team)

\$10,000

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Team) recognises and encourages outstanding research teams whose research has achieved considerable research engagement and impact outside the academic community. The definition of impact for this Award includes the demonstrable contribution that research makes to society, the arts and culture, national security, manufacturing, public policy or services, design, health, the environment and biodiversity, the economy, quality of life, or in other spheres beyond contributions to academia.

RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Team)

\$3,000

The RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Team) recognises and encourages outstanding research teams whose research has either realised or shown the potential to realise significant research engagement and impact outside the academic community. definition of impact for this award includes the demonstrable contribution that research makes to the economy, society, culture, national security, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life, beyond contributions to academia.

Selection criteria

Nominations for both the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Team) and the RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Team) will be judged on the following criteria:

Research Engagement and Impact (60%)

- Evidence of research engagement and/or translation or potential for research translation leading to impact.
- Evidence of the impact that this research has created, or has the potential to create, for an end user benefit in terms of economic, societal, and environmental outcomes.
- Evidence of research collaborations. This can include collaborative approaches involving academia, schools and colleges, cross-campus collaboration between RMIT Vietnam or RMIT Europe, engagement with industry, interdisciplinary teamwork as well as mentorship and training initiatives of early career researchers and HDR students.
- Demonstrated alignment with at least one of RMIT's five research actions referenced in the RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#).
 1. Deepen research impact culture and capabilities
 2. Foster partnerships for sustained impact at scale
 3. Scale up applied, transdisciplinary research
 4. Grow impact-focused research training
 5. Accelerate research translation and commercialisation

Research Excellence (30%)

- Significance of the team's research in contributing to new knowledge and/or innovations in the discipline.
- Evidence of the team's sustained and excellent research performance, relative to opportunity, particularly in the past five years. Performance should take into account not only general metrics like competitive research grants and awards, commercial research income, publications, HDR supervision/completions but also quality indicators and established benchmarks specific to the discipline. Supporting evidence for creative works such as inclusion in selective exhibitions, positive critical review, commissioning by significant bodies, will be considered.

Contribution to RMIT core values (10%)

- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Mid-Career Researcher)

\$10,000

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact Mid-Career Researcher (MCR) recognises an individual Mid-Career Researcher whose research has achieved considerable research engagement and impact outside the academic community in the preceding five years. The definition of impact for this Award includes the demonstrable contribution that research makes to society, the arts and culture, national security, manufacturing, public policy or

services, design, health, the environment and biodiversity, the economy, quality of life, or in other spheres beyond contributions to academia.

RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Mid-Career Researcher)

\$3,000

The RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Mid-Career Researcher) recognises an individual Mid-Career Researcher (MCR) whose research has achieved considerable research engagement and impact outside the academic community in the preceding five years. The definition of impact for this award includes the demonstrable contribution that research makes to society, the arts and culture, national security, manufacturing, public policy or services, design, health, the environment and biodiversity, the economy, quality of life, or in other spheres beyond contributions to academia.

Eligibility

In addition to the general eligibility, those eligible for nomination are MCR academics who are between 5 to 15 years' research experience since the award of a PhD or equivalent qualification at the time of the nomination closing date or longer if combined with periods of significant career interruption (see [RMIT's Achievement Relative to Opportunity Policy](#)).³

Selection criteria

Nominations for both the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Mid-Career Researcher) and the RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Mid-Career Researcher) will be judged on the following criteria:

Research Engagement and Impact (60%)

- Evidence of research engagement both within and outside of the academic community.
- Evidence of the impact that this research has created, or has the potential to create, and an end user benefit in terms of economic, societal, and environmental outcomes.
- Other contributions demonstrating research collaboration or leadership beyond the discipline.
- Demonstrated alignment with at least one of RMIT's five research actions referenced in the RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#).
 1. Deepen research impact culture and capabilities
 2. Foster partnerships for sustained impact at scale
 3. Scale up applied, transdisciplinary research
 4. Grow impact-focused research training
 5. Accelerate research translation and commercialisation

Research Excellence (30%)

³ Australian Research Council definition of a Mid-Career Researcher is used. <https://www.arc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-10/ARC%20Annual%20Report%202021%E2%80%9322.pdf>

- Significance of the research in contributing to new knowledge and/or innovations in the discipline.
- Evidence of sustained and excellent research performance, relative to opportunity, particularly in the past five years. Performance should be considered against quality indicators and norms for research performance within a given discipline, in addition to more general measures of competitive research grant or commercial research income, publications and HDR candidate supervisions/completions, or supporting documentation for creative works such as inclusion in selective exhibition, positive critical review, commissioning by significant bodies, etc.

Contribution to RMIT core values (10%)

- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Early Career Researcher)

\$10,000

The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact Early Career Researcher (ECR) recognises an individual ECR researcher whose research has achieved considerable research engagement and impact outside the academic community in the preceding three years. The definition of impact for this award includes the demonstrable contribution that research makes to society, the arts and culture, national security, manufacturing, public policy or services, design, health, the environment and biodiversity, the economy, quality of life, or in other spheres beyond contributions to academia.

RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Early Career Researcher)

\$3,000

The RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Early Career Researcher) recognises an individual early career researcher (ECR) whose research has shown potential research engagement and impact outside the academic community in the preceding three years. The definition of impact for this award includes the demonstrable contribution that research makes to society, the arts and culture, national security, manufacturing, public policy or services, design, health, the environment and biodiversity, the economy, quality of life, or in other spheres beyond contributions to academia.

Eligibility

In addition to the general eligibility, those eligible for nomination are ECR researchers who have been awarded a PhD or equivalent qualification for a period of less than or equal to 5 years at the time of their nomination or longer if combined with periods of significant career interruption (see [RMIT's Achievement Relative to Opportunity Policy](#)).⁴

Selection criteria

Nominations for both the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Early Career Researcher) and the RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Early Career Researcher) will be judged on the following criteria:

Research Engagement and Impact (60%)

- Evidence of research engagement both within and outside of the academic community.
- Evidence of the impact that this research has created, or has the potential to create, and an end user benefit in terms of economic, societal, and environmental outcomes.
- Other contributions demonstrating research collaboration or leadership beyond the discipline.
- Demonstrated alignment with at least one of RMIT's five research actions referenced in the RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#).

⁴ Australian Research Council definition of an Early career researcher is used. <https://www.arc.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-10/ARC%20Annual%20Report%202021%E2%80%9322.pdf>

1. Deepen research impact culture and capabilities
2. Foster partnerships for sustained impact at scale
3. Scale up applied, transdisciplinary research
4. Grow impact-focused research training
5. Accelerate research translation and commercialisation

Research Excellence (30%)

- Significance of the research in contributing to new knowledge and/or innovations in the discipline.
- Evidence of sustained and excellent research performance, relative to opportunity, particularly in the past three years. Performance should be considered against quality indicators and norms for research performance within a given discipline, in addition to more general measures of competitive research grant or commercial research income, publications and HDR candidate supervisions/completions, or supporting documentation for creative works such as inclusion in selective exhibition, positive critical review, commissioning by significant bodies, etc.

Contribution to RMIT core values (10%)

- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact– Industry Engagement in Graduate Research

\$3,000

The RMIT Award for Industry Engagement in Graduate Research recognises an HDR coordinator, supervisor or team of supervisors who have initiated or supported innovative and transformational engagement between higher degree research candidates and industry partners.

The recipient(s) of this award are nominated by RMIT for the Australian Council of Graduate Research Award for Promoting Industry Engagement in Graduate Research the following year.

Eligibility

In addition to the General Eligibility, this Award is open to all eligible academic staff who meet the following:

- A registered supervisor who is currently engaged in research supervision at RMIT.
- Nominees must have a continuing or contract position at no less than .4 EFT for a minimum of two years at the time of application. In the case of a team nomination, the majority of the members of the team must meet this condition.
- Possess a cumulative supervisory record of at least 5 HDR completions, spanning across any university.

Nomination process

Statements of Support for this award must include the following:

- A Statement of Support which addresses the selection criteria prepared by an HDR graduate.

- A Statement of Support which addresses the selection criteria prepared by an industry partner.

*Please see the [Nomination Process](#) section in the guidelines for full details.

Selection criteria

Nominations will be judged on the following criteria:

- Evidence of initiatives or industry engagements that have enabled successful and effective collaborations between HDR candidates and industry partners.
- Demonstrated contributions to HDR programs and/or supervision that supports candidates to develop strong employability skills and wide professional networks.
- Evidence of projects or initiatives that promote HDR candidates and graduates to industry.
- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).

Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Research Engagement and Impact (Higher Degree by Research)

\$3,000

The Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Research Engagement Impact (Higher Degree by Research) is awarded to a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidate who can demonstrate the potential for significant research engagement and impact of their research outside the academic community. The definition of impact for this Award includes the demonstrable contribution that research makes to society, the arts and culture, national security, manufacturing, public policy or services, design, health, the environment and biodiversity, the economy, quality of life, or in other spheres beyond contributions to academia.

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

\$1,500

The RMIT Prize for Research Engagement Impact (Higher Degree by Research) is awarded to a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidate who can demonstrate the potential for significant research engagement and impact of their research outside the academic community. The definition of impact for this award includes the demonstrable contribution that research makes to society, the arts and culture, national security, manufacturing, public policy or services, design, health, the environment and biodiversity, the economy, quality of life, or in other spheres beyond contributions to academia.

Eligibility

Nominees for the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Research Impact (HDR) and RMIT Prize for Research Impact (HDR) must be current RMIT University HDR candidates who have completed their Confirmation of Candidature and have not yet graduated by the award's deadline.

Selection criteria

Nominations for both the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Higher Degree by Research) and the RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact (Higher Degree by Research) will be judged on the following criteria:

Research Engagement and Impact (60%)

- Evidence of the potential for the nominee's research to have impact through engagement outside of the academic community.
- Details about the underlying research and the potential for research engagement and/or translation.
- Other contributions demonstrating research collaboration or leadership beyond the discipline.

Research Excellence (30%)

- Potential significance of the research in contributing to new knowledge and/or innovations in the discipline.

- Reportable publications, presentations, and other outputs produced during candidature (including citation rates, IP generation, best paper awards, or other external recognition during candidates via major creative work commissions, etc.
- Evidence of timely progress during candidature.

Contribution to RMIT core values (10%)

- Demonstrated leadership behaviour consistent with the [RMIT core values](#), the Indigenous Strategic Commitments reflected in our RMIT Strategy [Knowledge with Action](#), or the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Framework [\(IDEA\) Framework](#).