2020 UTS
Vice-Chancellor’s
Awards for
Research Excellence

Guidelines & Award categories
Guidelines for Nomination

The UTS Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Research Excellence were established in 2010 to recognise the outstanding contribution UTS staff make towards helping shape the world we live in. Through its 2027 Strategy, UTS is committed to growing its reputation as a leading public university of technology, with research excellence and innovation as core tenants of its activities. Through our education, research and engagement we will further enhance our international standing, delivering real benefit to our communities. The Vice-Chancellor’s Research Excellence Awards recognise the efforts of our staff in these endeavours.

General Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Eligibility:

• the nominee must be employed by UTS or have an honorary appointment and would normally have completed probation and/or have no impediments to their continued employment.
• casual staff may be nominated where appropriate.
• the nominee(s) must have been employed at UTS for a minimum of two years at the time of nomination. For team nominations, the majority of the team must have been at UTS for a minimum of 2 years and the coordinating nominee must have been at UTS for a minimum of two years.
• the nominated activity must have been conducted at UTS.
• an individual or team can be nominated for multiple categories in any given year, but only once per category. Previous winners are not eligible to be nominated a second time in the same category.
• subject to these eligibility criteria – finalists from 2019 may re-submit their nomination for consideration in 2020.
• nominations are invited from individuals and teams from across the University. Multi or cross disciplinary nominations are highly encouraged for all awards where appropriate.
• attention is drawn to a selection criterion ‘Contribution to UTS culture of excellence and research significance’. This is aligned to the University-wide strategy and reflects the behaviours and values considered critical for the University to realise its vision.

Additional selection criteria are outlined under each award category.
Nomination process

- Nominees are responsible for coordinating and submitting their nomination. For teams, a coordinating nominee should be identified.
- Each nomination requires a nominator. The nominator is not to be the same person as the nominee. Nominators may be non-UTS staff.
- The nominator’s role is to justify the nomination and should themselves have the appropriate standing and expertise to vouch for the quality of the nominated research.
- All nominations must be endorsed by the relevant Associate Dean (Research), who will be responsible for informing the Dean and who must return the spreadsheet of nominations to the Office of the DVCR (the Project Coordinator) identifying all endorsed, and non-endorsed nominees from the faculty or institution. Should a nomination not be endorsed by the faculty, the Associate Dean (Research) must provide an explanation in the spreadsheet of why this has occurred.
- For the Research Management and Development Award (Professional staff), if a nominee or a team nomination comes from the Division of the DVCR, the nomination must be endorsed by the Director of Research Office, Head of Institutes or Dean of GRS who must return the spreadsheet of nominations to the Office of the DVCR (the Project Coordinator) identifying all endorsed, and non-endorsed nominees. Should a nomination not be endorsed by the relevant unit, the Director, Head or Dean must provide an explanation in the spreadsheet of why this has occurred.
- For multi-disciplinary nominations which span more than one faculty/non-faculty institution, a coordinating faculty/institution must be identified.
- Submissions must be made using the appropriate nomination form in Symplectic. For more information on how to complete the online nomination form and attach supporting documents, refer to ‘How to submit a nomination form’ guidelines.
- Completion of Discovery profile is not required for the Research Management and Development Award (Professional staff).

Selection process

- Submissions will be considered against the selection criteria for each award or medal, with research performance considered relative to opportunity for all nominees.
• Each category will be judged by a five-member panel chaired by the DVC Research and including representatives from the academic community such as Deans, Associate Deans (Research), research leaders, and representatives of research support functions. The panel reserves the right to:
  o seek additional information from nominators or other sources within UTS to assist the selection process.
  o recommend that a nomination be considered in another category, subject to the eligibility criteria.
  o recommend more than one winner where nominations are equally meritorious.
  o recommend Highly Commended nominees and
  o recommend that a category not be awarded where it is considered that the quality of the nominations is not sufficiently meritorious.

• Following the panel decision, the DVC Research will recommend up to three finalists, including the actual award recipient, for each category to the Vice-Chancellor.

• The decision of the Vice-Chancellor is final and cannot be the subject of appeal.

Prizes
Each recipient will receive a medal or trophy, a certificate and a financial award (amount specified within each category) that can be added to their nominated UTS research account or can be taken as personal income, in which case the normal marginal tax rate would apply.

If an award is won by a team, the prize money will be awarded in multiples of the individual award, capped at $10,000 to be shared equally among the team. All prize money must be placed in a UTS research account and must be used for UTS related research activities within twelve months of award. In the case of the Research Management and Development Award (Professional Staff), the prize money can be taken as personal income, in which case the normal marginal tax rate would apply.

Categories

Research Medals
• Chancellor’s Medal for Research Excellence
• UTS Medal for Research Impact
• UTS Medal for Excellence in Teaching and Research

Research Awards

• Early Career Research Excellence Award
• Research Leadership and Development Award
• Research Excellence through Collaboration or Partnership Award
• Research Management and Development Award (professional staff nominees only)
• Supervisor of the Year Award

The specific selection criteria for each medal and award category are outlined on the following pages.
Chancellor’s Medal for Research Excellence $5,000

This award honours outstanding research at UTS. The research entered for consideration should demonstrate sustained research excellence at the highest level. Nominees must include information about the research underpinning the nomination and provide evidence of the breadth of its contribution.

Selection criteria: Nominations should address each of the following criteria.

- **Research excellence (60%)**
  
  - Include evidence of excellence in relation to the nominated research. This may include information related to measures of esteem, honours and award/prizes, and any other evaluations of the research, which are appropriate to demonstrating excellence.
  
  - Research nominated for this medal must have been published in one or more internationally respected, externally refereed outlets. Provide details of these publications, including citation data where appropriate.
  
  - Research that has generated non-traditional research outputs will also be considered under this criterion. Nominees should describe these outputs and explain how they represent research excellence in their field. The nominator should reinforce this assessment of non-traditional research outputs.
  
  - Demonstrate evidence of impact and engagement outside the University as it relates to this research. Research impact is the contribution that research makes to the economy, society, environment or culture, beyond the contribution to academic research.
  
  - Describe how the impact has been achieved (e.g. how the research reached the end user) and who has benefited.
  
  - Evidence of competitive external research funding, secured either to support the nominated research or awarded as a result of the successful outcomes of the research, or Evidence of external research funding from sources other than competitive grants (e.g. contract research) and the satisfaction of the funder, for example through further funding or written endorsement of their satisfaction.
• **Originality and significance of the research (30%)**
  - Describe the research and demonstrate how it has contributed to new knowledge and to advancing the boundaries of the disciplines.
  - Demonstrate how the research is innovative.

• **Contribution to the UTS culture of excellence (10%)**
  
  As a member of the UTS community, staff are expected to adhere to the principles of good citizenship, being generous with your help and support to others and collaborating with all colleagues in matters relating to research, learning & teaching, knowledge transfer, and working for the benefit of the University as a whole. Examples of good citizenship and conduct are:
  - Active engagement with colleagues and accepting delegated responsibilities.
  - Creating good working relationships with colleagues and others.
  - Fulfilling commitments.
  - Adherence to the University's policies.
  - Respect for colleagues at all levels.
  - Contributing positively to meetings or training events.
  - Showing leadership in the promotion of work/life balance.
  - Contributing to a culture of peer support and mentoring.

  Provide evidence of adherence to the principles of good citizenship.
UTS Medal for Research Impact  $5,000

This medal is awarded for research that has achieved considerable impact outside the academic community. The definition of impact for this award is the contribution that research makes to the economy, society, environment or culture, beyond the contribution to academic research. Nominees must include information about the research underpinning the described impact, the impact itself and a list of corroborating sources.

Selection criteria: Nominations should address each of the following criteria.

- **Details of the impact (60%)**
  - Describe the impact of this research, specifically how the research has influenced or benefited the economy, society, environment or culture, beyond the contribution to academic research.
  - Include evidence of the significance of the impact. This should include a description of the social, cultural or other significant impact achieved as a consequence of the public’s engagement with the research (e.g. widespread readership of outputs or through media engagement).
  - Describe how the impact was derived. State how the outcomes of your research were delivered to end users in order for the impact to be realised.

- **Research excellence (30%)**
  - Include evidence of excellence in relation to the nominated research. This may include information related to measures of esteem, honours and award/prizes, and any other evaluations of the research, which are appropriate to demonstrating excellence.
  - Research nominated for this medal must have been published in one or more internationally respected, externally refereed outlets. Provide details of these publications, including citation data where appropriate.
  - Research that has generated non-traditional research outputs will also be considered under this criterion. Nominees should describe these outputs and explain how they represent research excellence in their field. The nominator should reinforce this assessment of non-traditional research outputs.
Evidence of competitive external research funding, secured either to support the nominated research or awarded as a result of the successful outcomes of the research, or Evidence of external research funding from sources other than competitive grants (e.g. contract research) and the satisfaction of the funder, for example through further funding or written endorsement of their satisfaction.

**Contribution to the UTS culture of excellence (10%)**

As a member of the UTS community, staff are expected to adhere to the principles of good citizenship, being generous with your help and support to others and collaborating with all colleagues in matters relating to research, learning & teaching, knowledge transfer, and working for the benefit of the University as a whole. Examples of good citizenship and conduct are:

- Active engagement with colleagues and accepting delegated responsibilities.
- Creating good working relationships with colleagues and others.
- Fulfilling commitments.
- Adherence to the University's policies.
- Respect for colleagues at all levels.
- Contributing positively to meetings or training events.
- Showing leadership in the promotion of work/life balance.
- Contributing to a culture of peer support and mentoring.

Provide evidence of adherence to the principles of good citizenship.
UTS Medal for Excellence in Teaching and Research  $5,000

This award recognises an academic or a team of academics for their outstanding research and outstanding teaching at UTS. Special consideration will be given to those who demonstrate their ability to successfully integrate research, teaching and learning across a range of research and teaching activities.

Selection criteria: Nominations should address each of the following criteria.

• **Teaching excellence (35%)**
  - Describe the innovative approaches to teaching and learning that have been applied and how they have better enabled learning outcomes to be achieved.
  - Provide evidence of enhanced student experience that influences, motivates and inspires students to learn, that have been achieved from the teaching practices.
  - Evidence of publications on teaching developments and their influence on the practice of the wider community. Provide details of these publications, including citation data where appropriate.
  - Include evidence of excellence in relation to the nominated teaching. This may include information related to measures of esteem, honours and award/prizes, and any other evaluations of the teaching practice, which are appropriate to demonstrating excellence.

• **Research excellence (35%)**
  - Include evidence of excellence in relation to the nominated research. This may include information related to measures of esteem, honours and award/prizes, and any other evaluations of the research, which are appropriate to demonstrating excellence.
  - Research nominated for this medal must have been published in one or more internationally respected, externally-refereed outlets. Provide details of these publications, including citation data where appropriate.
  - Research that has generated non-traditional research outputs will also be considered under this criterion. Nominees should describe these outputs and explain how they represent research excellence in their field. The nominator should reinforce this assessment of non-traditional research outputs.
• Demonstrate evidence of impact and engagement outside the University as it relates to this research. Research impact is the contribution that research makes to the economy, society, environment or culture, beyond the contribution to academic research.

• Describe how the impact has been achieved (e.g. how the research reached the end user) and who has benefited.

• Evidence of competitive external research funding, secured either to support the nominated research or awarded as a result of the successful outcomes of the research, or

Evidence of external research funding from sources other than competitive grants (e.g. contract research) and the satisfaction of the funder, for example through further funding or written endorsement of their satisfaction.

• Research, Learning and Teaching interrelatedness (20%)

• Describe how the research supports key learning areas within the research discipline.

• Demonstrate how the class experience has been beneficial for research design.

• Provide details of research that has been successfully integrated into teaching practice and vice versa.

• Demonstrate how research methods or outcomes have been integrated into subjects and courses at UTS and beyond.

• Contribution to the UTS culture of excellence (10%)

As a member of the UTS community, staff are expected to adhere to the principles of good citizenship, being generous with your help and support to others and collaborating with all colleagues in matters relating to research, learning & teaching, knowledge transfer, and working for the benefit of the University as a whole. Examples of good citizenship and conduct are:

• Active engagement with colleagues and accepting delegated responsibilities.

• Creating good working relationships with colleagues and others.

• Fulfilling commitments.

• Adherence to the University’s policies.

• Respect for colleagues at all levels.

• Contributing positively to meetings or training events.
• Showing leadership in the promotion of work/life balance.
• Contributing to a culture of peer support and mentoring.

Provide evidence of adherence to the principles of good citizenship.
Early Career Research Excellence Award

This award is for an outstanding piece of research conducted by an individual early career researcher (ECR) or a team of ECRs. Nominees are eligible for this award if it is five years or less since the date of their PhD conferral (as at the closing date for nominations). The research entered for consideration should demonstrate research excellence relative to the length of career (and to opportunities). Nominees must include information about the research underpinning the nomination and provide evidence of the breadth of its contribution to the research field. Evidence of the nominee’s potential contribution to becoming a research leader will also be assessed. Consideration will be given to an eligibility exemption in the case of verifiable career disruptions. Eligible career disruptions are in line with those endorsed by the Australian Research Council.

Selection Criteria: Nominations should address each of the following criteria.

- **Originality and significance of the research (30%)**
  - Describe the research and demonstrate how it has contributed to new knowledge and to advancing the boundaries of the discipline.
  - Describe how the research is innovative.

- **Research excellence (30%)**
  - Include evidence of excellence in relation to the nominated research. This may include information related to measures of esteem, honours and award/prizes, and any other evaluations of the research, which are appropriate to demonstrating excellence.
  - Research nominated for this award must have been published in one or more internationally respected, externally-refereed outlets. Provide details of these publications, including citation data where appropriate.
  - Research that has generated non-traditional research outputs will also be considered under this criterion. Nominees should describe these outputs and explain how they represent research excellence in their field. The nominator should reinforce this assessment of non-traditional research outputs.
  - Demonstrate evidence of impact and engagement outside the University as it relates to this research. Research impact is the contribution that research makes to the economy, society, environment or culture, beyond the contribution to academic research.
• Describe how the impact has been achieved (e.g., how the research reached the end user) and who has benefited.

• Evidence of competitive external research funding, secured either to support the nominated research or awarded as a result of the successful outcomes of the research, or
  Evidence of external research funding from sources other than competitive grants (e.g., contract research) and the satisfaction of the funder, for example through further funding or written endorsement of their satisfaction.

• **Future research leader (30%)**
  - Demonstrate evidence of building peer and external networks as well as evidence of community outreach.
  - Provide evidence of the nominee’s developing leadership capabilities.
  - Provide evidence of the nominee’s efforts to champion junior researchers.

• **Contribution to the UTS culture of excellence (10%)**
  As a member of the UTS community, staff are expected to adhere to the principles of good citizenship, being generous with your help and support to others and collaborating with all colleagues in matters relating to research, learning & teaching, knowledge transfer, and working for the benefit of the University as a whole. Examples of good citizenship and conduct are:
    - Active engagement with colleagues and accepting delegated responsibilities.
    - Creating good working relationships with colleagues and others.
    - Fulfilling commitments.
    - Adherence to the University’s policies.
    - Respect for colleagues at all levels.
    - Contributing positively to meetings or training events.
    - Showing leadership in the promotion of work/life balance.
    - Contributing to a culture of peer support and mentoring.

  Provide evidence of adherence to the principles of good citizenship.
Research Leadership and Development Award $3,000

This award is to recognize and encourage an individual researcher who is on a path to becoming a research leader. The nominee is likely to be a mid-career researcher (approximately 5-15 years post PhD) who displays evidence of being a research leader and champion of research development. Evidence of the nominee’s research excellence will also be assessed.

Selection Criteria: Nominations should address each of the following criteria.

- Leadership and Development activities (60%)
  - Provide evidence of a research vision that has delivered results.
  - Provide evidence of teamwork, mentoring and training of peers, early career researchers and research degree students.
  - Provide evidence of how the nominee has helped integrate younger researchers into the wider research community, within and beyond their own research community and UTS, including post PhD employment.
  - Provide evidence that the nominee has implemented innovative skills development programs and supported broader programs for researcher development outside their immediate unit.
  - Provide evidence of the nominee’s contributions to the development and strengthening of institutional and local ECR strategy and policy.
  - Provide evidence of the nominee’s capacity for building peer networks and external collaborations.

- Research excellence (30%)
  - Include evidence of excellence in relation to the nominated research. This may include information related to measures of esteem, honours and award/prizes, and any other evaluations of the research, which are appropriate to demonstrating excellence.
  - Research nominated for this award must have been published in one or more internationally respected, externally-refereed outlets. Provide details of these publications, including citation data where appropriate.
  - Research that has generated non-traditional research outputs will also be considered under this criterion. Nominees should describe these outputs and explain how they
represent research excellence in their field. The nominator should reinforce this assessment of non-traditional research outputs.

- Demonstrate evidence of impact and engagement outside the University as it relates to this research. Research impact is the contribution that research makes to the economy, society, environment or culture, beyond the contribution to academic research.
- Describe how the impact has been achieved (e.g. how the research reached the end user) and who has benefited.
- Evidence of competitive external research funding, secured either to support the nominated research or awarded as a result of the successful outcomes of the research, or Evidence of external research funding from sources other than competitive grants (e.g. contract research) and the satisfaction of the funder, for example through further funding or written endorsement of their satisfaction.

- **Contribution to the UTS culture of excellence (10%)**
  As a member of the UTS community, staff are expected to adhere to the principles of good citizenship, being generous with your help and support to others and collaborating with all colleagues in matters relating to research, learning & teaching, knowledge transfer, and working for the benefit of the University as a whole. Examples of good citizenship and conduct are:
  - Active engagement with colleagues and accepting delegated responsibilities.
  - Creating good working relationships with colleagues and others.
  - Fulfilling commitments.
  - Adherence to the University's policies.
  - Respect for colleagues at all levels.
  - Contributing positively to meetings or training events.
  - Showing leadership in the promotion of work/life balance.
  - Contributing to a culture of peer support and mentoring.

Provide evidence of adherence to the principles of good citizenship.
Research Excellence through Collaboration or Partnership Award  $3,000

This is awarded to a UTS researcher, or team of UTS researchers, who have developed and sustained a research partnership and/or collaboration that has resulted in the delivery of significant outcomes. This award will recognise:

- Excellent research involving a multi- or trans-disciplinary research team consisting of collaborators across two or more UTS faculties or units in traditionally unrelated disciplines or
- Excellent research involving external partner(s) - e.g. business, government, NGOs, not-for-profit charity organisations, state-owned enterprises or community partners.

Eligibility

The research entered may be a single project or a program of research.

External partners should not be included as nominees; however, the nomination must include a letter of support from the external partner describing the outcomes and benefits of the partnership. This must not exceed two pages.

Selection criteria: Nominations should address each of the following criteria.

- **Collaboration (40%)**
  - Demonstrate the strength of the partnership/collaboration and evidence of teamwork.
  - Provide evidence of leadership within the collaboration.
  - Describe how the research outcomes were only possible as a result of the partnership/collaboration.

- **Research significance and impact (30%)**
  - Demonstrate evidence of the partnership/collaboration, and the benefits and impact that it brings to the University.
  - Provide evidence of learning experiences being shared for use in future partnerships/collaborations.
  - Provide evidence of output/outcomes from the partnership/collaboration including publications, research quality metrics and impact on society/industry e.g. citations, external research funding (including industry scholarships), industry scholarships and supervision of research degree candidates, which resulted from this partnership/collaboration.
• **Research excellence (20%)**
  - Include evidence of excellence in relation to the nominated research. This may include information related to measures of esteem, honours and award/prizes, and any other evaluations of the research, which are appropriate to demonstrating excellence.
  - Research nominated for this award must have been published in one or more internationally respected, externally-refereed outlets. Provide details of these publications, including citation data where appropriate.
  - Research that has generated non-traditional research outputs will also be considered under this criterion. Nominees should describe these outputs and explain how they represent research excellence in their field. The nominator should reinforce this assessment of non-traditional research outputs.
  - Evidence of competitive external research funding, secured either to support the nominated research or awarded as a result of the successful outcomes of the research, or
    - Evidence of external research funding from sources other than competitive grants (e.g. contract research) and the satisfaction of the funder, for example through further funding or written endorsement of their satisfaction.

• **Contribution to the UTS culture of excellence (10%)**
  As a member of the UTS community, staff are expected to adhere to the principles of good citizenship, being generous with your help and support to others and collaborating with all colleagues in matters relating to research, learning & teaching, knowledge transfer, and working for the benefit of the University as a whole. Examples of good citizenship and conduct are:
  - Active engagement with colleagues and accepting delegated responsibilities.
  - Creating good working relationships with colleagues and others.
  - Fulfilling commitments.
  - Adherence to the University’s policies.
  - Respect for colleagues at all levels.
  - Contributing positively to meetings or training events.
  - Showing leadership in the promotion of work/life balance.
• Contributing to a culture of peer support and mentoring.

Provide evidence of adherence to the principles of good citizenship.
Research Management and Development Award (Professional Staff)  $3,000

For an outstanding contribution or initiative in support services that has boosted research capability and/or development at either Faculty/School/Discipline/Institute or UTS-level. This award is open to individuals or teams of professional staff across UTS who support research excellence.

Selection Criteria: Nominations should address each of the following criteria.

- **Initiative (30%)**
  - Describe how the nominee/team has:
    - demonstrated leadership within their team or across the UTS research community.
    - shown ingenuity in researcher development initiative and/or research capability at UTS.
    - created or improved processes and procedures.

- **Performance (Contribution) (30%)**
  - Provide evidence that the quality of work/output or service contributed by the nominee/team has gone above and beyond the normal duties of the position, and has led to successful outcomes for the associated research program or team.
  - Demonstrate a significant and sustained effort to improve systems and enhance support.

- **Relationship excellence (30%)**
  - Provide evidence of a demonstrated ability to build and maintain productive collaborative relationships and research networks across UTS.
  - Demonstrate the strength of the partnership and evidence of teamwork.

- **Contribution to the UTS culture of excellence (10%)**
  As a member of the UTS community, staff are expected to adhere to the principles of good citizenship, being generous with your help and support to others and collaborating with all colleagues in matters relating to research, learning & teaching, knowledge transfer, and working for the benefit of the University as a whole.
Examples of good citizenship and conduct are:

- Active engagement with colleagues and accepting delegated responsibilities.
- Creating good working relationships with colleagues and others.
- Fulfilling commitments.
- Adherence to the University’s policies.
- Respect for colleagues at all levels.
- Contributing positively to meetings or training events.
- Showing leadership in the promotion of work/life balance.
- Contributing to a culture of peer support and mentoring.

Provide evidence of adherence to the principles of good citizenship.
Supervisor of the Year Award

Quality supervision is critical to the success of any research candidature, including timely completion of milestones and the development of appropriate academic and research integrity practices. This award recognises an outstanding research supervisor and the important role they play in supporting the research achievements and development of the talented Higher Degree Research candidates at UTS.

Award nominees must be nominated by a former student(s) (a student who has submitted their thesis and is waiting on the outcome may submit a nomination). The performance of nominees should be described in relation to each of the criteria below. It is important that descriptions indicate how the nominees’ activities demonstrate excellence in relation to the criteria. One nomination per supervisor only. Nominators should coordinate support for the application among their peers.

Selection Criteria: Nominations should address each of the following criteria.

- **Sustained and outstanding results of supervision (30%)**
  - Provide evidence of sustained and outstanding results of the nominated supervisor e.g. Have students from a range of backgrounds been encouraged to pursue a doctorate? What have they gone on to achieve? Offering constructive employment and career advice post-graduation.

- **Supervision innovation (30%)**
  - Provide evidence of the pioneering approach by the nominated supervisor. What has the nominee done above and beyond that is expected of any good supervisor? How have they used the UTS supervisory panel approach to provide innovative and high-quality supervision?

- **Dedication (20%)**
  - Provide demonstrable evidence for the nominee’s enthusiasm for the role and going the extra mile to help students navigate difficulties, academic or otherwise.

- **Academic leadership (20%)**
• Provide evidence of the nominee’s efforts in constructively challenging students intellectually and helping them to make substantial contributions to their academic field.