

Celebrating Excellence in Research and Impact 2024 Guidance Notes

The University of Essex will be holding its yearly event ‘**Celebrating Excellence in Research and Impact**’ on 22 May 2024. This event will jointly celebrate and showcase the excellent research and impact that has been generated by the University’s academic, research, technician and professional services community in all areas of research.

We invite self-nominations from individuals, teams, or projects, as well as nominations of colleagues from Executive Deans, Deputy Deans, Heads of Departments, Directors of Research, Directors of Impact, Project leads, Technical managers and Heads of Sections.

Nominees must be a University of Essex individual academic, research, technical or professional services staff, or research teams led by a University of Essex researcher. In the case of the Early Career Awards, nominees must be within 8 years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training, or an individual who is within 6 years of their first academic appointment (whichever is the lesser time). In the case of the Mid-Career Award, nominees must be within 8 to 15 years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training. These durations exclude any period of career break, e.g., for family care or health reasons. The ‘first academic appointment’ is defined as the first paid contract of employment, either full-time or part-time, which lists research and/or teaching as the primary functions. The award of PhD is defined at the point of successful PhD viva. Nominees should meet the eligibility criteria both at the time of nomination and when the research impact took (or is taking) place.

Projects which have been nominated for previous awards, can be nominated again, but must clearly explain additional impact which was not included in the previous application. We strongly encourage nominations from projects that have been supported by any of the University’s Impact funding awards.

The judging panel will be led by Professor Chris Greer, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research, and Dr Rob Singh, Director of the Research and Enterprise Office, assisted by the Faculty Deans (Research) to select a winner in each category.

Nominees may be contacted by the Research and Enterprise Office after the closing date if the judging panel require further clarification on any aspect of the application.

Individuals and projects may be nominated for more than one category, up to a maximum of three nominations.

Award winners will receive an inscribed award and their research will be highlighted in internal and external communications, and in submissions for national awards, to recognise and celebrate the impact of research taking place at Essex.

The closing date for nominations is **4.00 pm on 23 February 2024**. Completed applications should be submitted to the REO Research Planning Team (reorp@essex.ac.uk).

Categories

This year, there are nine award categories for the University's Celebrating Excellence in Research and Impact.

- a. **Research Champion:** This award will recognise academic staff with a significant track record of outstanding research and who have shown leadership in supporting or enabling others to deliver high quality research. There will be three awards for this category (one for each Faculty).
 - b. **Outstanding Early Career Researcher:** This award will recognise academic staff at an early stage of their independent career who have produced outstanding research and demonstrate strong future potential. There will be three awards for this category (one for each Faculty).
 - c. **Outstanding Mid-Career Researcher:** This award will recognise academic staff who are mid-career and who are producing outstanding research. There will be three awards for this category (one for each Faculty).
 - d. **Best Research Impact:** This award will recognise University of Essex research that has contributed to the development of knowledge and know-how that is of tangible value to non-academic partners in a variety of sectors. This includes, but is not limited to contributions to society, the economy, culture, health, wellbeing, the environment, technology, law, policy, and practice outside of academia. There will be three awards for this category (one for each Faculty).
 - e. **Best Research Impact by an Early Career Researcher:** This award will recognise University of Essex research conducted primarily by an Early Career Researcher that has contributed to the development of knowledge and know-how that is of tangible value to non-academic partners in a variety of sectors.
 - f. **Outstanding Interdisciplinary Research:** This award will recognise a team of academic staff who together have delivered exceptional interdisciplinary research that spans across departments and/or faculties.
 - g. **Research Visibility Champion:** This award will recognise individual or teams of academic staff who have taken steps to significantly improve the reach and visibility of their research.
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- h. **Outstanding Research Support by a Technician or Technical Team:** This award will recognise a technician or technical team who have offered outstanding support for or contribution to: a research project; or overall research environment within a department.
- i. **Outstanding Research Support by a member of or team from Professional Services.** This award will recognise a member of or team from Professional Services who have offered outstanding support for or contribution to: research within the institution; a research project; or overall research environment.

Assessment Criteria

1. Assessment Criteria – Award Category (a)

All nominations should outline evidence of above the discipline norm in **more than one** of the following:

- Significant and sustained research income
- Prestigious external awards (e.g. FBA/FRS or equivalent)
- Leadership of successful (funding, high profile outputs) international collaborations
- Supporting research of other colleagues, in particular Early Career Researchers (through e.g. co-authoring papers, PI/CoPI on grants)

2. Assessment criteria – Award Category (b) and (c)

All nominations should outline evidence of above the discipline norm for the stage of career in **both** of the following:

- In capture of research income
- Quality and quantity of outputs.

3. Assessment criteria – Award Categories (d) to (e)

For the purposes of these Awards, we define research impact as the demonstrable contribution excellent research makes to all fields outside academia, including contributions to society, the economy, culture, health, wellbeing, the environment, technology, law, policy, and practice outside of academia.

Nominations must include impact that has occurred since **1 August 2018**.

Applications should outline how the individual or project meets the criteria for the relevant categories and will be judged against the following core criteria:

- Demonstrable link between the research and impact identified
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- A constructive role played by the researcher in making impact happen
- A clear and credible understanding of research impact from the beneficiaries' point of view
- The research and impact creating new or enhanced relationships with research user and practitioners
- The potential for other researchers to learn and to be inspired

Nominees do not require previous experience of generating research impact other than evidence of tangible impacts and benefits flowing from their work to external parties. We strongly encourage nominations from projects that have been supported by any of the University's Impact funding awards.

4. Assessment criteria – Award Category (f)

All nominations should come from a group of researchers from more than one discipline/department/faculty and must outline evidence that they have achieved above the norm in their disciplines in **at least one** of the following:

- Winning external research income
- Level of outputs in both quality and quantity
- Externally funded international collaborations.
- Receipt of a significant external prize.

5. Assessment criteria – Award Category (g)

All nominations should outline what steps the individual/group has taken to increase visibility, providing supporting evidence, for example:

- Citation data, such as number of citations, citations per publication, Field Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI)
 - Altmetric data, such as number of views, social media interactions, news mentions and more
 - Engagement with open research, such as open access publishing (including preprints) and open data
 - Qualitative evidence, such as reviews, qualitative feedback etc.
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When providing supporting evidence, please provide as wide a range as possible to give a thorough overview of how you are reaching internal and external audiences. Please note that as a signatory of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), the University of Essex is committed to responsible metrics, and will therefore not assess publications based on metrics such as the journal impact factor. You can read more about this on the DORA website (<https://sfdora.org/read/>).

Please note that to be eligible for this award you must also supply links to your **ORCID and Google Scholar profiles** in the evidence section.

6. Assessment criteria – Award Categories (h) and (i)

All nominations should outline evidence of **one or more** of the following:

- Instance where strong technical collaboration or leadership has ensured a successful outcome.
 - Evidence of undertaking significant personal development and/or increased knowledge or technical ability (outside their routine role) to aid others, with the ultimate aim to become leaders in their technical or professional expertise.
 - Demonstration of technical or professional expertise and remarkable effort to ensure targets were met/exceeded and/ or milestone were achieved.
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