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**Application Form**

October 2025

**Future Research Leader Award Category**

**Research Excellence Awards**

**FUTURE RESEARCH LEADER AWARD CATEGORY**

**2025/26 APPLICATION FORM**

**NOTES FOR NOMINEE**:

* There are various elements to this application form - to be completed by Nominee/Nominator/Research Director - so please allow sufficient time to complete.

* The Nominee is responsible for ensuring all elements are completed and that the form is submitted by the closing date.
* When completing this form please refer to the Future Research Leader Awards Guidance notes.

**Completed forms should be submitted to the relevant Faculty Associate Dean for Research & Innovation by no later than 12 noon on Friday 16 January 2026.**

**SECTION 1: NOMINEE PERSONAL DETAILS**

**Full Name:**

**Job Title:**

**Year of Appointment:**

**Faculty:**

**Unit of Assessment:**

**School:**

**Nominated by:**

(or own name if Self

Nominated**)**

**SECTION 2: A STATEMENT OF NOMINATION BASED ON RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS (maximum 1000 words)**

*Part a) of this section may be completed by the nominator or nominee (if self-nominating)*

a) Statement of nomination describing the nature and significance of the nominee’s research accomplishments;

b) Brief statement by the nominee on how they, if successful, would use the Award to further their research;

**SECTION 3: INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE TO MEET THE CRITERIA FOR A FUTURE RESEARCH LEADER AWARD (maximum 1500 words excluding questions)**

*This section is to be completed by the nominee. Please provide information and appropriate evidence in relation to questions a) to c) and if appropriate d).*

**a) Outputs/Publications (60%)**

Please outline your exceptional early and ongoing achievements that have made significant and demonstrable contributions to research resulting in positive outcomes in outputs/publications;

**b) Potential for Impact (20%)**

Please outline your contributions that are having a positive impact on the institution and/or broader society by way of civic impact;

**c) Additional Indicators (any two of the following 20%)**

Please outline your active contributions/achievements in any two of the following:

* Research Funding
* PhD/staff supervision
* Networking and interdisciplinary research
* Embedding research into the curriculum
* Engagement with Industry/Technology Transfer/Intellectual Property
* Supported the development of a rich [research culture environment at Ulster](https://www.ulster.ac.uk/research/resources/culture/research-culture-action-plans). Some examples but not limited to include – completion of research integrity training, engaging with learning and training and CPD development; application of open research and responsible research practices, data management plans, networking and engaging with colleague and other disciplines; engaging with support programmes across the university and within your area.

**d)** In assessing submissions, the Panel/Awards Committee will take account of any situation where the nominee has lost time in their career through family commitments, illness, late entry into higher education, part-time status or other individual staff circumstances. In the event of such circumstances being pertinent, the application should highlight that they wish special circumstances to be considered and include details of the time period(s) that the individual was away from the University.

**SECTION 4: A SUPPORTING STATEMENT FROM THE RESEARCH DIRECTOR**

The Research Directors are requested to provide a statement that endorses the evidence provided by the nominee in respect to their research and scholarly accomplishments. Please also comment on the nominee’s achievements in relation to how they meet the criteria at a level commensurate with the discipline.

**SECTION 5: CITATION**

Please include a 150-word summary of your nomination that will be published on the University awards web pages should your nomination be judged a 2026 winner.

Rather than a biography of you/your nominee or a list of the team members, we encourage you to focus on summarising the outcomes delivered, what makes the person or project so impactful, why the individual or team contribution is so powerful or special, and the difference it makes within the University or beyond.

This short story will inspire future nominations to the Ulster Excellence Awards, share best practice and encourage collaboration and connections.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Any member of staff within 5 years of their first Academic/Research appointment e.g. lecturer/research fellow (including any relevant prior employment) who is actively involved in leading an independent programme of research.

**Declaration**

I have read and understood the eligibility criteria and confirm that I am eligible to apply for this category of award.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Completed forms should be submitted to the relevant Faculty Associate Dean for Research & Innovation by no later than 12 noon on Friday 16 January 2026.**