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[**www.ulster.ac.uk/awards/research-excellence-awards**](https://ulster-my.sharepoint.com/personal/c_gerrow_ulster_ac_uk/Documents/Documents/Research%20Performance/Research%20Excellence%20Awards/2026/Application%20forms%20&%20Criteria/www.ulster.ac.uk/awards/research-excellence-awards)

**Application Form**

October 2025

**Distinguished Research Award Category**

**Research Excellence Awards**

**DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH AWARDS 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 Distinguished Research 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 DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH 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 d) and if appropriate e)*

**a) Outputs/Publications (50%)**Please outline your record of research outputs which are recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour with at least one of these outputs having been judged to be internationally excellent. Nominees are asked to provide details of their 3 best research outputs outlining why they are considered important.

**b) Impact (20%)** Please outline evidence of having generated research impact as per HEFCE’s definition of impact for REF (See Appendix in guidance document);

**c) Evidence of Leadership, Successful PhD Supervision and Contribution to Research Culture and Environment (15%)**

Please outline evidence of having attained leadership qualities, such as successful supervision of doctoral students (other than for PhD by Published Works); line management of research staff, collaborative research projects, establishment of research teams, etc. How have you engaged with, or supported the development of a rich research culture environment at Ulster and [Ulster’s research culture strategic priorities](https://www.ulster.ac.uk/research/resources/culture/research-culture-action-plans).

*Some examples but not limited to include – participating as a mentor on the research mentoring programme, organising/delivering training and support for staff members i.e. ECRs/contract researchers/Technicians; engaging with responsible research and open research practices; ensuring research ethics and integrity of highest standards; engaging in and supporting collaboration within university and externally and encouraging fairness, equality, collegiality and networking.*

**d) External Funding (15%)**

Please outline evidence of external funding awards where you are named contributor, commensurate with your academic discipline. (Note: consideration will be given as to whether the nominee is PI on an award as well as the prestige of the awarding body).

**e)** 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 of 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 Academic/Research staff who has been in an Academic/Research post for at least 5 years but less than 15 years.

**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.**