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**Senior Distinguished Research Award Category**

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**Application Form**

October 2025

**Research Excellence Awards**

**SENIOR 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/External Senior Individual - 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 Senior 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 1500 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 and the nominee’s academic impact on his/her department or the University, including intellectual stimulation and development of colleagues and students and influence on the excellence and the creativity of research and other scholarly activities of the department or University;

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

**SECTION 3: INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE TO MEET THE CRITERIA FOR A SENIOR 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 the following questions a) to d) and if appropriate e)*

**a) Outputs/Publications (35%)**Please outline your record of research outputs judged to be internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour with at least one of these outputs judged to be world-leading. Nominees are asked to provide details of their best 3 research outputs outlining why they are considered important;

**b) Impact (20%)**Please outline evidence of having generated substantial and sustained research impact as per HEFCE’s definition of impact for REF (See Appendix in Guidance notes);

**c) Evidence of Sustained Leadership and contribution to Research, Culture and Environment (25%)**

A record of delivering sustained research leadership as evidenced by roles and responsibilities that extend beyond individual or group research activities, e.g. successful staff/PhD supervision; directing major funding initiatives that involve a significant number of academic colleagues and/or stakeholders; management of recognised University Centres or Institutes; large scale national or international collaborations. Evidence of supporting and developing a rich research culture and environment at Ulster and contribution to the [Research Culture strategic priorities](https://www.ulster.ac.uk/research/resources/culture/research-culture-action-plans) i.e. supporting collaboration and collegiality and career development within the unit; engaging with or supporting responsible research and open research practices: ensuring research ethics and integrity of highest standards; recognising research diversity and contributions; engaging in and supporting collaboration within university and externally and encouraging fairness, equality, collegiality and networking.

**d) Sustained Research Funding (20%)**
Please outline your record of external research funding at a level commensurate with your discipline (Note: consideration will be given as to whether the nominee is PI on an award and to the prestigious nature of the funding and whether overheads were obtained.)

**e)** In assessing submissions, the Awards Panel/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.

**SECTION 6: A SIGNED STATEMENT FROM A SENIOR INDIVIDUAL EXTERNAL TO THE UNIVERSITY**

A signed statement will also be required from a senior individual external to the University who holds a leadership role within the nominee’s discipline and a form of words for this statement is included below.

**EXTERNAL NOMINATOR’S STATEMENT**

|  |
| --- |
| I agree that [***Name of Nominee****]* has achieved sufficient standing in the research community to merit consideration for the Senior Distinguished Research Award for which I have read the criteria. |
| Name: |  |
| Position: |  |
| Signature: |  |

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Any member of Academic/Research staff who has at least 15 years in an Academic/Research post.

**Declaration**

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

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

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