

Vice-Chancellor and RMIT Research Awards and Prizes Frequently asked questions:

Q. Can I nominate myself for an award or prize?

A. No. All Research Awards and Prizes including the DSC Awards and Prizes are by nomination only (with the nominee's consent). Individuals or teams are nominated by someone else via the online form.

Q. Who is allowed to fill in the online form?

A. It can be filled out by the nominator, nominee or both. The online form is completed with the contribution of the nominator and nominee.

Q. Who should I seek an endorsement from in my college? Who is my dean?

A. A complete nomination consists of an email endorsement (i.e., the actual email) from the respective Dean/Head of School or their delegate confirming they will endorse you for the nomination. The nominator or nominee usually initiates the email endorsement.

To find the name of the correct dean or head of school to email for an endorsement we suggest asking your supervisor or going to:

<https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/schools-colleges>

Q. The guidelines state to be eligible nominees for the RMIT Prize for Research Excellence (HDR), the nominee must have completed their degree on time, within four years for a PhD or two years for a Masters (EFTSL). Can we apply for special consideration if the person we are nominating had a leave of absence?

A. Yes, you can apply for special consideration if the HDR nominee had a leave of absence. Contact the Research and Innovation Capability team at reward.recognition.research@rmit.edu.au regarding special consideration if the HDR nominee for the Research Excellence or the Research Engagement and Impact (HDR) Awards have a special consideration relating to eligibility.

Q. How many statements of support do I need?

A. For all awards a minimum of two statements of support must be completed and uploaded with the online form via SmartyGrants portal before submission. Multiple statements of support are encouraged.

Q. Is a statement of support from an industry partner a mandatory requirement for all three of the HDR Supervision Awards?

A. No. A statement of support from an industry partner is only a requirement for the: RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact –Industry Engagement in Graduate Research.

Q. Are teams that work in Research Centres eligible to be nominated for Research Awards?

A. Any staff member or team can be nominated for Research Awards that meet the general eligibility and for those awards open to teams. Teams within a centre are eligible to be nominated however the whole centre cannot be nominated for that award. Keep in mind the awards are for teams where every person has contributed to the research that is being nominated. Transdisciplinary team nominations are encouraged.

Q. I'd like to submit a longer CV than the 1.5x A4 pages maximum. Is that allowed?

A. If you submit a CV that exceeds the maximum limit of 1.5 pages in A4 size, please be aware that the assessors on the panel will only review the first 1.5 pages of the CV attached to the nomination. The guidelines specifically request an abbreviated CV, so we recommend that your CV primarily highlights experiences that are relevant to the Award criteria. The Selection Panel understands that you are submitting an abbreviated CV.

Q. How is the two years of employment calculated to meet the general eligibility of being employed for two years?

A. The guidelines state that nominees must have been employed at RMIT for a minimum of two years. Nominees for the research awards should have a tenure of at least two years at RMIT, with the calculation based on the period between the award's nomination deadline and two years prior (i.e., from September 5, 2022, to September 5, 2024).

Q. Why do nominees need to have an employment contract through the end of 2024?

A. Awards open to staff, nominees must have an RMIT appointment that is current until the end of 2024. The guideline regarding an RMIT appointment until the end of 2024 aims to ensure that recipients are still employed when they receive the award, enabling us to disburse the prize money accordingly.

Q. Can an honorary staff member (i.e., an Emeritus Professor) be considered an academic staff member and nominate someone?

A. For the purpose of the statement of support an honorary would qualify to be a nominator.

Q. The research excellence awards – ECR guidelines state they recognise an academic who has achieved the highest level of excellence in their research activity for the preceding three years. How can I calculate that?

A. The Research Awards Panel will assess excellence achieved in the three years leading up to the nomination deadline for the award (i.e., September 5, 2021, to September 5, 2024) If you have experienced a career interruption, please make sure to provide those details in the online nomination as the Research Awards Panel will consider achievement relative to opportunity.

Q. Are there a certain number of awards going to each college?

A. There are no pre-determined allocations of awards to Colleges. The panel is comprised of senior academics from all colleges to ensure a fair and representative selection process. The ADVC R&I who chairs the selection panel will also consider equity and diversity in selections.