Awards for Excellence in Higher Degree Research

At the University of Queensland we take pride in our excellence in research with a tradition of outstanding graduates. This is a tribute to our staff in their support of our HDR candidates and their guidance in supervision but also in providing the university with further collaboration with industry and leadership through research.

Message from Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Researcher Development)

The Awards for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Supervision, Leadership & Industry Engagement provide an opportunity for us to publicly acknowledge and celebrate the achievements and initiatives of our colleagues and the key benefits they provide to our HDR candidates and the broader research community. The awards recognise individuals who show excellence in Research Supervision as well as recognising excellence in advising for emerging academic staff.

In 2020, we expanded the Awards for Excellence in Higher Degree Research by introducing two new categories; the Award for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Leadership and the Award for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Industry Engagement. The introduction of these new categories highlights the diversity of our research community and recognises those who have facilitated greater collaboration with industry as well as recognising those academics who continue to demonstrate leadership in research training and demonstrate effective and inspirational graduate leadership.

The broadening of these awards highlights the breadth of talent and Innovation our academic staff possess which is also displayed in the quality of our HDR graduates.

Professor Alastair McEwan
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Researcher Development)
Acting Dean, Graduate School
Professor of Microbiology

2021 Award Categories:

- Award for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Supervision
- Award for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Leadership
- Award for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Industry Engagement

2021 Key Dates:

- Nominations open: Now - April 2021
- Nominations close: 30 May 2021*
- Nominees advised of outcome: August 2021
- Awards Ceremony: Research Week - September 2021

*Nominations will close strictly at 11:59pm. There will be no extension to this timeframe.
Awards for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Supervision

Nomination information

Who is eligible to be nominated?

All University of Queensland (UQ) academic staff (continuing and fixed-term) with experience in supervising, mentoring and/or training Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates at UQ.

Eligibility criteria

An award (Award for Excellence in HDR Supervision or an Emerging Advisor Award) may be granted to a nominee. Nominees will not receive both awards.

- A nominee for an **Supervision Award** must be a current UQ academic staff member (continuing and fixed term) with a minimum of three years’ experience supervising, mentoring and/or training HDR candidates at UQ.

- A nominee for an **Emerging Advisor Award** must be a current UQ academic staff member (continuing and fixed term) with less than 3 years’ supervision experience supervising, mentoring and/or training HDR candidates at UQ.

- Previous recipients of the Award for Excellence in HDR Supervision are not eligible to receive another award. Emerging Advisor Award recipients will be eligible in future for a Supervision Award.

- Previously unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated.

- Shortlisted nominees must provide evidence of high-quality research training supervision (see Selection criteria) as well as the requested supporting documentation (see Supporting documentation).

Any award recipient who is no longer employed by UQ at the time of the announcement of the awards will be issued a certificate of recognition, but will not be entitled to an award prize.

Nomination process

An individual may be nominated by an academic/professional staff member or by an HDR candidate (nominator). Self-nominations will not be accepted.

An online nomination form will be made available on the Graduate School website for nominators to complete.

Award selection is based primarily on written statements addressing the selection criteria (see Selection Criteria - 800 word limit).

Selection criteria

The Nominee’s performance in a research training supervision role will be judged in part by how effectively they provide:

- Evidence of high quality and innovative research supervision practice. This may include principal, associate and team supervision;

- Evidence of the impact and outcomes of research supervision, including successful and timely HDR completions and co-publication or production of other research outputs with or by their candidates. This may also include the promotion of industry engagement and the development of HDR candidate’s employability skills and professional networks;

- Evidence of positive post-graduation outcomes of candidates; and

- Demonstrated leadership in research supervision including the provision of mentoring to less experienced supervisors.

In your nomination please consider the above criteria (where applicable). Please limit your response to 800 words or less.

Selection committees (shortlist/final)

The shortlisting committee will be made up of members of the Faculty or Institute. Shortlisted nominees will then be invited to provide supporting documentation, which will be reviewed by the final selection committee chaired by the Dean of the Graduate School or delegate and consist of past excellence award winners.

The committee does not take into account:

- the distribution of Awards to particular Schools, Institutes and/or Faculties; or
- the outcome of previous unsuccessful nominations.

The committees will consider evidence of high quality performance by examining:

- the nominee’s candidate timely completion rates;
- the nominee’s candidate withdrawals;
- number of years supervising; and
- written statements from the nominator(s).

Supporting documentation (shortlisted)

The following supporting documentation will be requested from shortlisted nominees to provide evidence of high-quality research training supervision:

- Statements addressing each of the selection criteria (300 word limit per criteria);

- Academic curriculum vitae (brief); and

- Endorsement from Head of School or Institute Director.
Announcement of award recipients
Nominees will be advised by email if they have been selected to receive an award. Nominees will be invited to attend the UQ Research Award ceremony taking place during Research Week in September 2021 where the winners will be announced, presented with their award and recognised for their achievements. Family members, nominees, nominators, colleagues and supervisors of the finalists may have an opportunity to attend. Please note that the number of attendees will be limited and guest invitations will be dependent on venue capacity.

Supervision Award prize
The winning individual/s will receive a certificate of recognition, a trophy and $5,000. Payment of the award prize will be made as a one-off payment into a research account nominated by the recipient. Relevant taxation and superannuation arrangements will apply to one-off salary payments.

The winning individual will also be put forward for nomination into the 2021 Australian Council of Graduate Research (ACGR) Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Leadership.

Emerging Advisor prize
Nominees whose nomination is considered to be of a very high standard but who are not endorsed as the category winner may receive an Emerging Advisor Award. The individual/s will receive a certificate of recognition, a trophy and $2,000. Payment of the award prize will be made as a one-off payment into a research account nominated by the recipient. Relevant taxation and superannuation arrangements will apply to one payments.

Expectations of award recipients
The recipients of an Award for Excellence in HDR Supervision or an Emerging Advisor Award may be expected to participate in seminars, presentations or act as a mentor to their colleagues. Photos of awards recipients may be used for publicity purposes (with permission).
Awards for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Supervision nomination process

1. Prepare to complete the online nomination form

An online nomination form is located on the Graduate School website. Please note that you need to be logged on to the internet to access this form. Advisors cannot self-nominate for this award.

2. Nominees to complete the online nomination form

Ensure all contact details and statements addressing the selection criteria are completed. There is no capacity to save your work and return later. You will be requested to provide:

• The contact details for:
  - yourself (the nominator) and
  - the nominee.
• A statement addressing the four selection criteria (800 word limit).
• Once submitted the nominator will receive an email to confirm the submission has been received.

3. Shortlist - Faculty/Institute

When nominations close, each Faculty/Institute will consider all eligible nominations and select the following to put forward to the Graduate School for final selection.

• Two nominees per Faculty or one nominee per Institute for the Supervision Awards; and
• One nominee per Faculty or one nominee per Institute for the Emerging Advisor Award.

Shortlisting will be reviewed and ranked by reviewing:

• The nominee’s candidate timely completion rates;
• The nominee’s candidate withdrawals;
• The number of years supervising at UQ; and
• Written statements from nominator(s).

4. Supporting documentation

The following supporting documentation will be required from the nominee to provide evidence of high-quality research training supervision.

• Statements addressing each of the selection criteria (300 word limit per criteria);
• Academic curriculum vitae (brief); and
• Endorsement from Head of School or Institute Director.

5. Final ranking - Graduate School

All endorsed nominations and supporting documentation will be reviewed by the Selection Committee.

6. Outcome

Once all eligible nominations are reviewed by the Selection Committee the outcome will be provided via email.

7. Awards ceremony

Nominees will be invited to attend the UQ Research Award ceremony taking place during Research Week in September 2021.
Award for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Leadership

Nomination information

Who is eligible to be nominated?

All University of Queensland (UQ) academic staff in a research training leadership role who demonstrate inspirational and effective local graduate research leadership at school, faculty or other academic unit level.

Institutional deans of graduate research or equivalent are not eligible for this award.

Eligibility criteria

An award (Award for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Leadership) may be granted to a nominee.

• A nominee must be a current UQ academic staff member on a continuing or fixed term appointment with no less than 0.4 EFT (or an adjunct appointment) at UQ for a minimum of two years at the time of application.

• Previous recipients of the award are not eligible for renomination within three years of receiving an award.

• Previously unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated.

• Nominees must provide evidence of high quality performance relative to opportunity (see Selection Criteria).

Any award recipient who is no longer employed by UQ at the time of the announcement of the awards will be issued a certificate of recognition, but they will not be entitled to an award prize.

Nomination process

An individual may self-nominate or be nominated by an academic or professional staff member (nominator). Nominations by HDR candidates will not be accepted.

An online nomination form will be made available on the Graduate School website for nominators to complete.

Award selection is based primarily on written statements addressing the selection criteria (see Selection Criteria - 300 word limit per criteria).

Selection criteria

The Nominee’s performance in a research training leadership role will be judged in part by how effectively they provide:

• Evidence of initiatives that have enabled a strong and supportive intellectual community for HDR candidates within their academic unit;

• Evidence of contribution to the development and maintenance of high quality and innovative HDR and/or skill development programs;

• Evidence of support and mentoring for HDR supervisors;

• Contributions to the development and strengthening of institutional and local HDR strategy and policy, and

• Supporting statements from relevant stakeholders.

Supporting documentation

The following supporting documentation will be requested from the nominee to provide evidence of leadership activities.

• Curriculum vitae (brief);

• Supporting statement from current and graduated candidates and academic colleagues; and

• Evidence of particular initiatives of candidates’ achievement.

Selection committee (shortlist/final)

The shortlisting committee will be made up of members of the Faculty or Institute. The final selection committee is chaired by the Dean of the Graduate School or delegate and members consist of past award winners. They consider all eligible nominees and select awardees. In doing so, the committee does not take into account:

• The distribution of Awards to particular Schools, Institutes and/or Faculties; or

• The outcome of previous unsuccessful nominations.
Award recipient information

Announcement of award winners
Nominees will be advised by email if they have been selected to receive an award. Nominees will be invited to attend the UQ Research Award ceremony taking place during Research Week in September 2021 where the winners will be announced, presented with their award and recognised for their achievements.

Family members, nominees, nominators, colleagues and supervisors of the finalists may have an opportunity to attend. Please note that the number of attendees will be limited and guest invitations will be dependent on venue capacity.

Individual award prize
The winning individual will receive a certificate of recognition, a trophy and $5,000. Payment of the award prize will be made as a one off payment into a research account nominated by the recipient. Relevant taxation and superannuation arrangements will apply to one off salary payments.

The winning individual will also be put forward for nomination into the 2021 Australian Council of Graduate Research (ACGR) Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Leadership.
Awards for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Leadership nomination process

1. **Prepare to complete the online nomination form**

An online nomination form is located on the Graduate School website. Please note that you need to be logged on to the internet to access the form.

2. **Nominees to complete the online nomination form**

Ensure all contact details and statements addressing the selection criteria (300 word limit per criteria) are completed and all supporting documentation is attached to the online nomination form before you submit. There is no capacity to save your work and return later. Once submitted the nominee will receive an email to confirm the submission has been received.

3. **Shortlist - Faculty/Institute**

When nominations close, each Faculty/Institute will consider all eligible nominations and select the top 2 nominees per Faculty or 1 nominee per Institute to put forward to the Graduate School for final selection. Shortlisting will be reviewed using the:

- Selection criteria;
- Academic curriculum vitae;
- Supporting statements from current and graduated candidates and academic colleagues; and
- Evidence of particular initiatives of candidates’ achievements.

4. **Final ranking - Graduate School**

When nominations close, the Selection Committee will consider all eligible nominations and rank by reviewing the:

- Selection criteria;
- Academic curriculum vitae;
- Supporting statements from current and graduated candidates and academic colleagues; and
- Evidence of particular initiatives of candidates’ achievements.

5. **Outcome**

Once all eligible nominations are reviewed by the Selection Committee the outcome will be provided via email.

6. **Awards ceremony**

Nominees will be invited to attend the UQ Research Award ceremony taking place during Research Week in September 2021.
Award for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Industry Engagement

Nomination information

Who is eligible to be nominated?

All University of Queensland (UQ) professional or academic staff (individual or team) who have initiated or supported innovative and transformational engagement between higher degree research candidates and industry partners.

Institutional deans of graduate research or equivalent are not eligible for this award.

Eligibility criteria

An award (Award for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Industry Engagement) may be granted to a nominee.

- A nominee must be a current UQ professional or academic staff member on a continuing or fixed term appointment with no less than 0.4 EFT (or an adjunct appointment) at UQ for a minimum of two years at the time of application.
- Previous recipients of the award are not eligible for renomination within three years of receiving an award.
- Previously unsuccessful nominees may be re-nominated.
- Nominees must provide evidence of high quality performance relative to opportunity (see Selection Criteria).

Any award recipient who is no longer employed by UQ at the time of the announcement of the awards will be issued a certificate of recognition, but they will not be entitled to an award prize.

Nomination process

An individual may self-nominate or be nominated by an academic or professional staff member (nominator). Nominations by HDR candidates will not be accepted.

An online nomination form will be made available on the Graduate School website for nominators to complete.

Award selection is based primarily on written statements addressing the selection criteria (see Selection Criteria - 300 word limit per criteria).

Selection criteria

The Nominee’s performance in a research training leadership role will be judged in part by how effectively they provide:

- Evidence of initiatives that have enabled successful and effective collaborations between HDR candidates and industry partners;
- Evidence of graduate research programs, support and/or supervision that supports HDR candidates to develop strong employability skills and wide professional networks;
- Evidence of projects or initiatives that demonstrate and promote the value of HDR candidates and graduates to industry; and
- Supporting statements from HDR candidates and industry partners.

Supporting documentation

The following supporting documentation will be requested from the nominee to provide evidence of high quality industry engagement.

- Curriculum vitae (brief);
- Supporting statements from at least one industry partner and one HDR candidate;
- Supporting statement from current and graduated candidates and academic colleagues; and
- Evidence of particular initiatives of candidates’ achievement.

Selection committee (shortlist/final)

The shortlisting committee will be made up of members of the Faculty or Institute. The final selection committee is chaired by the Dean of the Graduate School or delegate and members consist of past excellence award winners. They consider all eligible nominees and select awardees. In doing so, the final selection committee does not take into account:

- The distribution of Awards to particular Schools, Institutes and/or Faculties; or
- The outcome of previous unsuccessful nominations.
Award recipient information

**Announcement of award winners**
Nominees will be advised by email if they have been selected to receive an award. Nominees will be invited to attend the UQ Research Award ceremony taking place during Research Week in September 2021 where the winners will be announced, presented with their award and recognised for their achievements.

Family members, nominees, nominators, colleagues and supervisors of the finalists may have an opportunity to attend. Please note that the number of attendees will be limited and guest invitations will be dependent on venue capacity.

**Individual award prize**
The winning individual will receive a certificate of recognition, a trophy and $5,000. Payment of the award prize will be made as a one off payment into a research account nominated by the recipient. Relevant taxation and superannuation arrangements will apply to one off salary payments.

The winning individual will also be put forward for nomination into the 2021 Australian Council of Graduate Research (ACGR) Award for Excellence in Promoting Industry Engagement in Graduate Research.
Awards for Excellence in Higher Degree Research: Industry Engagement nomination process

1. Prepare to complete the online nomination form

An online nomination form is located on the Graduate School website. Please note that you need to be logged on to the internet to access the form.

2. Complete the online nomination form

Ensure all contact details and statements addressing the selection criteria (300 word limit per criteria) are completed and all supporting documentation is attached to the online nomination form before you submit. There is no capacity to save your work and return later. Once submitted the nominee will receive an email to confirm the submission has been received.

3. Shortlist - Faculty/Institute

When nominations close, each Faculty/Institute will consider all eligible nominations and select the top 2 nominees per Faculty and 1 nominee per Institute to put forward to the Graduate School for final selection. Shortlisting will be reviewed using the:

- Selection criteria;
- Academic curriculum vitae;
- Supporting statements from at least one industry partner and one HDR candidate;
- Supporting statements from current and graduated candidates and academic colleagues; and
- Evidence of particular initiatives of candidates’ achievements.

4. Final ranking - Graduate School

When nominations close, the Selection Committee will consider all eligible nominations and rank by reviewing the:

- Selection criteria;
- Academic curriculum vitae;
- Supporting statements from at least one industry partner and one HDR candidate;
- Supporting statements from current and graduated candidates and academic colleagues; and
- Evidence of particular initiatives of candidates’ achievements.

5. Outcome

Once all eligible nominations are reviewed by the Selection Committee the outcome will be provided via email.

6. Awards ceremony

Nominees will be invited to attend the UQ Research Award ceremony taking place during Research Week in September 2021.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the Awards for Excellence in Higher Degree Research, please contact the Graduate School at graduateschool@uq.edu.au.

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