



**Maynooth University**  
**Vice President for Research &**  
**Innovation**  
Research Achievement Awards

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**Research Achievement Awards 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2024**

## Research Achievement Awards 2024

### Background

Maynooth University is committed to fostering excellent research and scholarship as a central purpose of the University as articulated in the current Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028. These annual awards are based on research and scholarship achievements over the previous two-to-five-year period.

### Awards Categories

The following University Research Achievement Awards will be awarded for 2024:

- Early Career Award
- Mid-Career Award
- Advanced Career Award
- Excellence in Research Outputs Award
- Impactful Research Award
- Supporting Research Award

The awards categories are defined as follows:

- **Early Career Research Award:**  
The Maynooth University Early-Career Research Award recognises outstanding research achievements by colleagues who are in the early stages of their career. This award honours individuals who have demonstrated exceptional promise through innovative research, contributing new knowledge and ideas within their discipline. Recipients are celebrated for their potential to become future leaders in their field, showcasing significant scholarly outputs and the ability to establish a strong research trajectory.
- **Mid-Career Research Award:**  
The Maynooth University Mid-Career Research Award acknowledges academic staff who have established themselves as significant contributors to their field. This award honours those who, at the mid-point of their career, have demonstrated sustained excellence in research, making impactful contributions that advance knowledge and understanding. Recipients are recognised for their leadership in research, their ability to mentor others, and their ongoing commitment to producing high-quality scholarly work that enhances the university's research profile.
- **Advanced Career Research Award:**  
The Maynooth University Advanced Career Research Award celebrates academic staff who have made a profound and lasting impact in their field over the course of their career. This award honours individuals who have consistently produced pioneering research that has shaped the direction of their discipline, earning national and international recognition. Recipients are

distinguished by their leadership, mentorship, and the legacy of their scholarly contributions, which continue to influence both their field and the broader academic community.

- The Maynooth University **Excellence in Research Outputs Award** celebrates colleagues who have produced outstanding research outputs. This award honours those whose scholarly outputs significantly contribute to advancing knowledge and enhancing the university's reputation in their respective fields
- The **Maynooth University Research Impact Award** recognises colleagues whose research has made a significant and tangible impact on society, industry, or policy. This award honours people whose work goes beyond academia, driving meaningful change and contributing to the betterment of the world. Recipients are celebrated for their ability to translate research into real-world benefits, showcasing the transformative power of scholarly endeavours
- The **Maynooth University Supporting Research Award** recognises outstanding contributions from colleagues across all categories who play a crucial role in advancing the university's research mission. This award honours those who provide exceptional support, mentorship, or resources, significantly enhancing the research environment for colleagues and students alike. Recipients are celebrated for their dedication to fostering a collaborative and thriving research culture, empowering others to achieve their full potential in research

### **Nomination / Application Process**

The call will open on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Both individuals and teams of colleagues are eligible for each award.

Submissions may be self-nominated or nominated by a third party.

Nominees for the awards must be a member of staff during the time frame of the subject of the award.

- Researcher awards: nominees and applicants must have been employed at MU for at least 2-years.
- Research output awards: the work must have an MU Affiliation
- Research impact: the research impact should be attributable to Maynooth University
- Research support: the support should have been provided at Maynooth University

2. Nominations must be submitted by **5pm, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024**.

Nominations:

- All nominations **must be** submitted via the MS Teams nomination form <https://forms.office.com/e/xLvtjT1yN8>

- Late applications will not be accepted.
- Incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible.

### **Assessment and Outcome**

3. Following the deadline, the VP for Research and Innovation will convene a panel to select the winners of the awards. This will consist of the following:
  - Vice President for Research and Innovation
  - The Associate Deans of Research
  - One nominee from each Faculty
  - External nominee
  - The Director of the Research Development Office
4. The winners will be announced during Research Week 2024.

## **Assessment Criteria**

### **Early Career Research Award:**

- Innovation and Originality:
  - The candidate should demonstrate innovative and original research that contributes new knowledge or methodologies to their field.
- Research Outputs:
  - Evaluation of the quality and significance of research outputs such as publications, presentations, or creative works, relative to the candidate's career stage.
- Research Trajectory:
  - Assessment of the candidate's potential to establish a strong and sustainable research career, including future research plans and objectives.
- Recognition and Awards:
  - Consideration of any recognition or awards received by the candidate for their research, including grants, fellowships, or other honours.
- Contribution to Research Community:
  - Involvement in collaborative research projects, contribution to research groups, or participation in professional organizations or conferences.

### **Mid-Career Research Award:**

- Sustained Excellence:
  - The candidate must demonstrate a sustained record of high-quality research outputs over several years, including publications, patents, or other significant contributions.
- Impact and Influence:
  - Evaluation of the impact of the candidate's research on their field, including citations, influence on policy or practice, or the development of new research areas.
- Leadership in Research:
  - The candidate should demonstrate leadership in their field, including leading research teams, supervising students or postdoctoral researchers, and securing research funding.
- Mentorship:
  - Evidence of mentorship and support provided to early-career researchers, contributing to the development of the next generation of scholars.
- Engagement and Collaboration:
  - Participation in collaborative research initiatives, both within and outside the university, and engagement with stakeholders, industry, or the public.

### **Advanced Career Research Award:**

- Pioneering Contributions:
  - The candidate should have a distinguished record of pioneering research that has significantly shaped their field or led to new areas of study.
- International Recognition:
  - The candidate's work should be internationally recognized, with evidence of influence through citations, keynote invitations, awards, or leadership roles in global research initiatives.
- Research Legacy:
  - Assessment of the candidate's long-term contributions, including the

development of research programs, mentoring of influential researchers, and contributions to the broader academic community.

- Sustained Impact:
  - Evaluation of the sustained impact of the candidate's research over time, including long-term influence on policy, practice, or societal outcomes.
- Leadership and Service:
  - The candidate should demonstrate significant leadership within the university and the broader research community, including service on editorial boards, grant panels, or professional societies.

#### **Excellence in Research Outputs Award:**

- **Quality and Impact:** The award recognises academic staff who have produced research outputs of exceptional quality that contribute significantly to their field. This includes publications, creative works, or other scholarly activities.
- **Originality:** The research must demonstrate innovation and originality, pushing the boundaries of knowledge within the discipline.
- **Reputation and Recognition:** Consideration is given to the level of recognition the research has received, such as citations, awards, or positive reviews from peers.
- **Contribution to the University's Profile:** The work should enhance the reputation of Maynooth University as a leading research institution.

#### **Research Impact Award:**

- **Societal, Industrial, or Policy Impact:** This award recognises research that has led to measurable positive change in society, industry, or policy, whether locally, nationally, or internationally.
- **Engagement and Dissemination:** The ability of the researcher to effectively communicate and engage with non-academic audiences to ensure the research reaches and influences relevant stakeholders.
- **Sustainability and Long-term Benefits:** The research should have a lasting impact, with benefits that extend beyond the immediate results.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Consideration is given to collaborative efforts with external partners, including industry, government, or community organizations, that have facilitated the research's impact.

#### **Supporting Research Award:**

- **Support Excellence:** This award recognises staff who have provided outstanding support to the research activities of others, contributing to the success of research projects, teams, or the wider research environment.
- **Mentorship and Development:** Individuals who have significantly contributed to the development of researchers, particularly through mentorship, guidance, or professional development initiatives.
- **Collaboration and Facilitation:** The nominee should demonstrate a strong commitment to fostering collaboration, whether through administrative support, technical expertise, or other means that enable research to flourish.
- **Dedication to the Research Community:** Consideration is given to the nominee's efforts in creating a positive, inclusive, and supportive research culture at the university.

**More Information**

For more information or clarifications, contact [vicepresident.research@mu.ie](mailto:vicepresident.research@mu.ie) or [director.rdo@mu.ie](mailto:director.rdo@mu.ie)

## Nomination Form 2024

<b>Nominee(s)</b>		
<b>Department/Institute</b>		
<b>Award Category</b>	<b>Early Career Award</b>	
	<b>Mid-Career Award</b>	
	<b>Advanced Award</b>	
	<b>Excellence in Research Outputs Award</b>	
	<b>Impactful Research Award</b>	
	<b>Supporting Research Award</b>	

*For the first 3 awards*

<b>1. Provide key achievements in the generation of new knowledge:</b> <i>Max 500 words</i>
<b>2. Please provide key achievements supporting the research community:</b> <i>Max 500 words</i>
<b>3. Please outline key achievements in the development of individual and collaborations:</b> <i>Max 500 words</i>
<b>4. Please outline key achievements in supporting broader society and impact:</b> <i>Max 500 words</i>

*For excellent research output award*

- 1. Please outline an original and significant research output during the last 2 years for example monographs, creative outputs, publications in prestigious journals, conference, open access, Irish language etc.**

*Max 1000 words*

*For impact award*

- 1. Please outline a specific impact of your work on your field of expertise and how you have demonstrably contributed to the advancement of knowledge, society or innovation.**

*Max 1000 words*

*For Research Support award*

- 1. Please outline how you as a mentor/supervisor/research or technical officer have supported research and/or career development.**

*Max 1000 words*