

2026 GUIDELINES

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURE

OFFICE OF THE DVCRE
MAY 2026

The *Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Infrastructure* is designed to reward Research Infrastructure Specialists, both academic and professional, who have recently achieved, or are currently achieving, exceptional contributions to the success of Monash research through the operations and management of research infrastructure or the provision of related services to the research community. The award celebrates the success of those who go above and beyond to generate positive change; these include but are not limited to, ensuring our world-class facilities, platforms and/or labs are optimised to support our talent to increase research quality, scale and reach, demonstrating sustained and significant achievement as part of the Monash Research Community. Applicants may wish to demonstrate their contribution to Monash University's strategic plan, including but not limited to the following areas of achievements: international collaborations, external funding, awards/ prizes, interdisciplinary research, Indigenous leadership in research, challenge-led/ mission-oriented research, and research culture.

The Vice-Chancellor's Research and Enterprise Excellence Awards are among Monash University's most prestigious honours for outstanding research staff at all levels. Awards include:

- Vice-Chancellor's Early Career Researcher of the Year Award (HASS and STEM; one award in each area)
- Vice-Chancellor's Researcher of the Year Award (HASS and STEM; one award in each area)
- Vice-Chancellor's Research Professional of the Year Award
- Vice-Chancellor's Research Team of the Year Award (HASS and STEM; one award in each area)
- Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Infrastructure
- Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Enterprising Research
- Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Commercialisation
- Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Engagement and Impact
- Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision (HASS and STEM; one award in each area)

The Vice-Chancellor's Research and Enterprise Excellence Awards give university-wide accolades and profiles for individual research staff, their teams, faculty and projects, as well as broader recognition of their achievements.

Winners are announced and will receive their award from the Vice-Chancellor at the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Awards event.

2026 KEY DATES

Activity	Date
Vice-Chancellor's Research and Enterprise Excellence Awards guidelines released.	21 May
Nominations open.	12 June
Nominations due.	14 August
Endorsement from Dean/ Head of organisational unit.	August
Nominations considered by the selection panel/s and recommendations made to the Vice-Chancellor and President.	August/ September
Winners announced at the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Awards event.	23 November

TERMS OF AWARD

The award recipient(s) will receive a trophy and certificate(s) from the Vice-Chancellor and President during the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence Awards event on 23 November.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE AWARD CRITERIA

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This category is open to individual and team nominations.

The following criteria apply to this award for individual nominees:

1. To be eligible to apply for the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Infrastructure, you must be:
 - a. A Monash University employee with a substantive appointment within a faculty or sub-faculty with a nomination endorsed by the Dean (pathway 1)**; or
 - b. A Monash University employee without a substantive appointment within a home faculty with a nomination endorsed by the Head of organisational unit (pathway 2)**.
2. Be an academic or professional staff member, including full-time, part-time, ongoing and fixed-term.
3. Be continuously employed by Monash University for at least two years at the time of nomination.
4. Demonstrate exceptional individual performance, sustained for a minimum period of one year. The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Infrastructure is based on achievements over the past one to two years.

The following criteria apply to this award for team nominees:

1. A team where at least two team members must have been continuously employed by Monash University for at least two years at the time of nomination.
 - a. A team including at least one Monash University employee with a substantive appointment within a faculty or sub-faculty with a nomination endorsed by the Dean (pathway 1)**; or
 - b. A team including at least one Monash University employee without a substantive appointment within a home faculty with a nomination endorsed by the Head of organisational unit (pathway 2)**.
2. Demonstrate exceptional team performance, sustained for a minimum period of one year. The Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research Infrastructure is based on achievements over the past one to two years.

Note, teams can include Monash academic and professional staff members, as well as members with external affiliations.

If applicable, relevant circumstances will be taken into consideration and achievement will be assessed relative to opportunity. Please see the Achievement Relative to Opportunity [website](#) for more information and examples of relevant circumstances.

*** Nominations must be endorsed by the Dean (for Pathway 1) or the Head of organisational unit (for Pathway 2). However, nominees are no longer required to upload a written endorsement with the nomination form. Following submission, the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) will forward the nominations to the relevant Dean or Head of organisational unit for endorsement.*

Note, Academic staff who are currently subject to formal disciplinary, misconduct or performance management processes, or who have had a disciplinary action outcome, or have been found in breach of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research within the past 24 months, are ineligible to receive a Research and Enterprise Excellence Award.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be assessed on the information provided in their nomination submission.

1. Excellence

This could include significant and sustained achievement against one or more of the following themes:

- Contributing to significant advancement in technologies, methodologies, capabilities, or services that enhance research outcomes
- Developing innovative research training programs or resources that enhance researcher skills and capability
- Fostering the creation and delivery of interdisciplinary research projects, cross-platform or cross-facility collaborations
- Fostering successful collaborations with researchers and/or industry that drive advancements in research capabilities that enhance research outcomes and impact
- Enabling research excellence with sustained impact, evidenced by researcher acknowledgements in publications, successful funding applications, or recognition from scientific communities
- Leading significant enhancements in operational efficiency, quality management, governance, and/or user experience
- Demonstrating creative problem-solving to address complex research challenges, resulting in improved outcomes or processes

2. Leadership qualities

Demonstrated through the possession and display of leadership skills and approaches, including through generosity, empowering others, integrity, accountability, fostering talent, and supporting wellbeing.

This could be evidenced via:

- Capacity and capability building, including through mentoring.
- Demonstrated impact at Monash beyond the applicant's immediate platform, facility or lab.
- Thought leadership in the sector and/or community.
- Enhancing equity, diversity and inclusion.

DEFINITIONS

Challenge-led/mission-oriented research¹

Challenge-led, mission-oriented research endeavours are characterised by their inherent complexity and transdisciplinary nature, which pose significant hurdles to their realisation. They build on and extend fundamental, curiosity-driven, discovery research models.

¹ French, M. A., Pinyon, Z., Emes, K., Ryan, M., Georgiou-Karistianis, N., Jasieniak, J., and Brown, R. R. (2024) University-led mission-oriented research and innovation: A Framework for catalysing large-scale transdisciplinary research. Monash University; Melbourne, Australia.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE EXCELLENCE AWARD PROCESS

NOMINATION PATHWAYS

Nomination Pathway 1

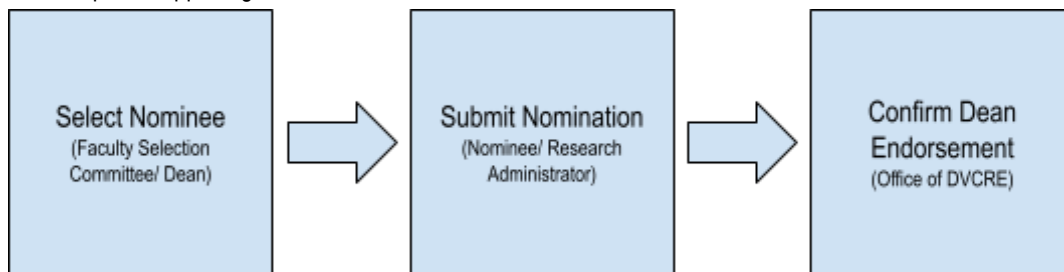
Most University employees are nominated to a home faculty.

In these instances, the nominee/s for a Vice-Chancellor's Research and Enterprise Excellence Award must participate in their home faculty's Research Award process (Pathway 1)**.

This usually involves receiving the equivalent faculty award. However, this is not a requirement and deans can make nominations directly to each of the Vice-Chancellor's Research and Enterprise Excellence Award categories.

The Dean's endorsement confirms that the nominees meet the award's eligibility criteria, including compliance with disciplinary/ performance and ethics and integrity criteria.

Where applicable, nominations may include a one-page supporting document, this must contain one hyperlink only. Non-compliant supporting materials will be excluded from consideration.

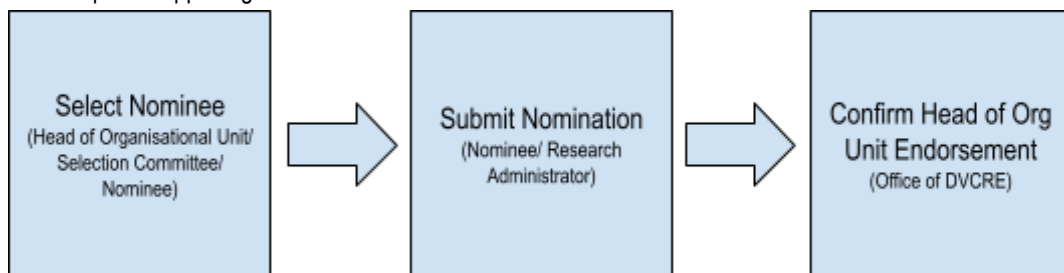


Nomination Pathway 2

If the nominee/s are based outside of a faculty, nominations to the Vice-Chancellor's Research and Enterprise Excellence Awards require endorsement from the Head of organisational unit (Pathway 2)**.

The Head of organisational unit's endorsement confirms that the nominees meet the award's eligibility criteria, including compliance with disciplinary/ performance and ethics and integrity criteria.

Where applicable, nominations may include a one-page supporting document, this must contain one hyperlink only. Non-compliant supporting materials will be excluded from consideration.



**** Nominations must be endorsed by the Dean (for Pathway 1) or the Head of organisational unit (for Pathway 2). However, nominees are no longer required to upload a written endorsement with the nomination form. Following submission, the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) will forward the nominations to the relevant Dean or Head of organisational unit for endorsement.**

Note: Only one nomination per category for each organisational unit will be accepted. The number of nominations is limited at a portfolio and sub-faculty levels (e.g. DVCRE Portfolio, COO Portfolio, Sub-Faculty of Translational Medicine and Public Health) for non-faculty organisational units. For nominations from the Faculty of Medicine that sit outside of a Sub-Faculty, this will be considered a separate organisational unit for the purposes of the Awards.

Note: To provide clarity regarding nominations from the Faculty of Medicine, endorsement will be provided by the Executive Dean, in line with the timeframes and requirements of other faculties. However, nominations from each Sub-Faculty will first be submitted to the relevant Sub-Faculty Dean for endorsement, via an internal process to be determined by the Faculty of Medicine.

Note: Nominations from Monash University Malaysia (MUM) staff members proceed to a check by MUM HR prior to proceeding to the selection process. Additionally, MUM and Monash University Indonesia (MU) nominees will need a dual approval from their respective campus president and their relevant organisational leader or Dean.

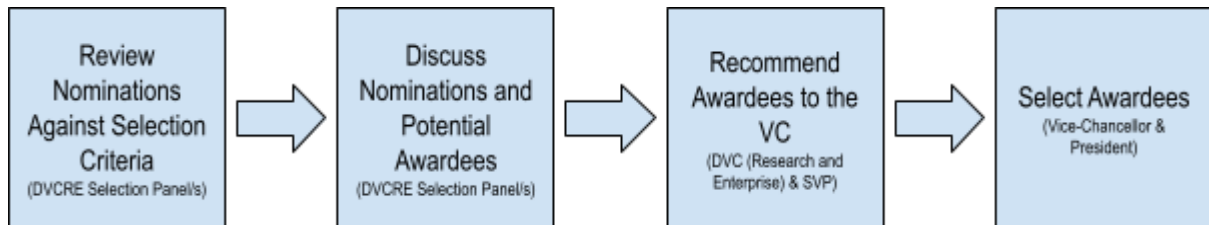
Note: Academic staff who are currently subject to formal disciplinary, misconduct or performance management processes, or who have had a disciplinary action outcome, or have been found in breach of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research within the past 24 months, are ineligible to receive a Research and Enterprise Excellence Award.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) convenes a selection panel/s to assess each application against the selection criteria.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) then recommends to the Vice-Chancellor recipients for the Research and Enterprise Excellence Awards.

Then the Vice-Chancellor selects recipients for each category.



Further information

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**For advice on whether or not a researcher has a substantive appointment within a home faculty, please contact your HR Business Partner or you may find this information on the researcher's employment contract.*

monash.edu.au