

2026 GUIDELINES

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S
RESEARCH PROFESSIONAL OF
THE YEAR

OFFICE OF THE DVCRE
MAY 2026

The *Vice-Chancellor's Research Professional of the Year Award* is designed to reward professional staff members who have recently achieved, or are currently achieving, exceptional contributions to the success of Monash research. The award celebrates those who go above and beyond to generate positive change by fostering a thriving research culture, strengthening collaborations, and enhancing the quality, impact and operational excellence of Monash research, demonstrating sustained and significant achievement within 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.

RESEARCH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD CRITERIA

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This category is open to individual and team nominations.

1. Previous winners of current or past iterations of the award are eligible to apply, provided they can demonstrate distinct, significant achievements.
2. Previous commendation recipients of current or past iterations of the award are eligible to apply, provided they can demonstrate evidence of substantial progress since their last nomination.

The following criteria apply to this award for individual nominees:

1. To be eligible to apply for the Vice-Chancellor's Research Professional of the Year Award, 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 a 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 Research Professional of the Year 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)**.
- Note, teams can include Monash academic and professional staff members, as well as members with external affiliations.*
2. Demonstrate exceptional team performance, sustained for a minimum period of one year. The Vice-Chancellor's Research Professional of the Year is based on achievements over the past one to two years.

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, 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 research ethics or integrity 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. Demonstrated professional excellence

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

- Fostering cross-faculty, cross-campus or multi-institution research collaborations in academic and/or professional spaces to improve the quality and impact of Monash Research
- Fostering research collaborations with industry, communities, philanthropy and government
- Fostering the creation and delivery of interdisciplinary research projects
- Demonstrating professional excellence to enhance researcher and/or HDR student experience
- Supervisors or leaders providing exceptional support to research staff, fostering workplace collaboration, encouraging innovation and promoting talent development
- Modelling exemplary care in fostering a research culture that supports research excellence and impact
- Sustainably enhancing or improving Monash Research's operations and organisational architecture to support innovative research

2. Leadership qualities

Demonstrated through the possession and display of leadership skills and approaches, including evidence of their leadership creating a positive impact on Monash University and/or the wider community.

This could be evidenced via:

- Mentoring
- Capacity and capability building
- Enhancing wellbeing
- Thought leadership for the wider community

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

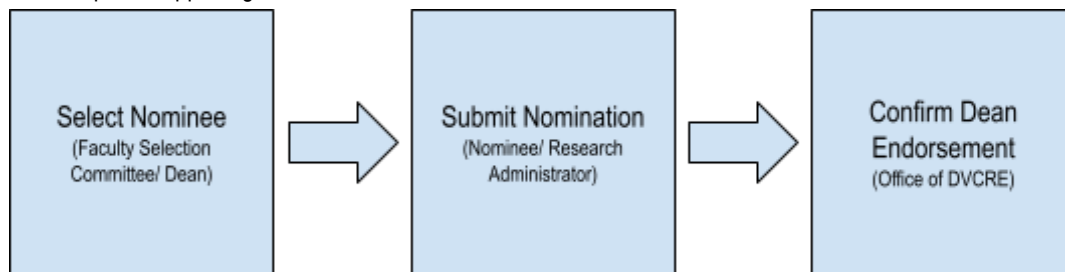
Most University employees are nominated to a home faculty.

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.

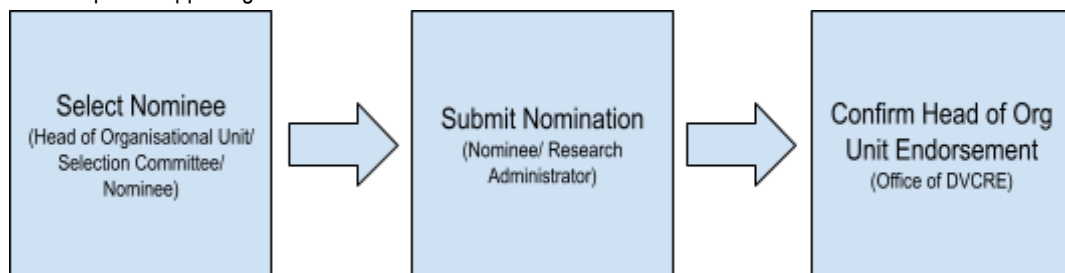


Nomination Pathway 2

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.

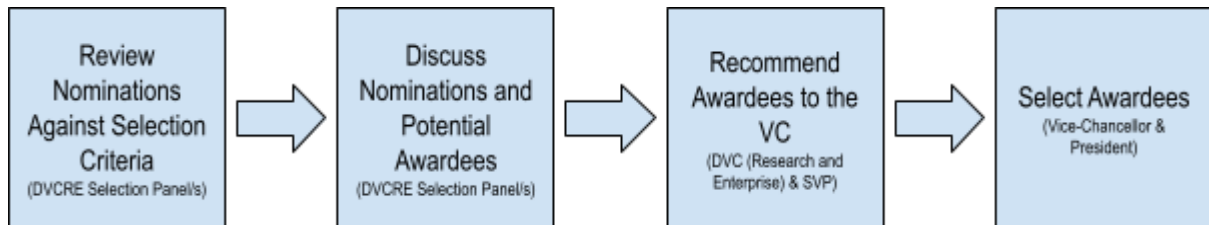
Note: Academic staff who are currently subject to formal disciplinary, misconduct or performance management processes, or who have had a disciplinary action outcome, or have been found in breach of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research within the past 24 months, are ineligible to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