Information and Guidelines

This award will recognize outstanding performance in research by an early career researcher who is within five years post-completion (formal award) of their PhD or MPhil degree (after 1 May 2018). For entrants whose work has been realised over a period longer than five years from PhD award due to career disruption (pregnancy; major illness; or carer responsibilities), the entrant must address this in the entry documentation citing the circumstances of career disruption and demonstrating that the entrant has completed the work within a period of no more than five years FTE (full-time equivalent) research activity.

Judging Criteria

The applicant must be able to provide tangible evidence of research excellence and should specifically address how the work entered meets the following four judging criteria:

1. **Originality (25%)**: describe how your research is original.

2. **Discipline specific rigour (25%)**: describe the discipline specific rigour of your research, including evidence that your research has undergone peer review. This section can include:
   - high quality published papers;
   - production and showing of creative works at appropriate outlets;
   - peer recognition by invitations to speak at conferences/meetings;
   - success in obtaining external research funding.

3. **Potential impacts (25%)**: describe the potential impacts and wider benefits of your research.
   - The research should take the form of a significant and novel advance in research which has the potential to deliver major benefits to Australian and/or international communities in the fields of the creative arts, culture, education, the environment, health, industry, the law, public or social policy, technology or commercial enterprise.

4. **Additional indicator (25%)**: applicants must address one of the following criteria to complete their application:
   - Synthesis of research: demonstration of cross-disciplinary research and/or collaboration in a multi-disciplinary team; peer review within and beyond the discipline; engagement with programs to enable integration such as entrepreneurship.
   - Embedding research activity or researchers into student learning and curriculum: demonstration of contribution/influence on research or curriculum committees; unit design and unit activities that build on research activity.
   - Engagement with industry, government or community: demonstration of positive engagement links with external partners to facilitate knowledge exchange, research translation or student engagement in practice.
Guidelines for Submission

Prepare a single PDF application containing the following information:

- **Research summary**: a brief description of the research entered, including objectives and results to date (one-page maximum).

- **Judging criteria**: a brief description of how the entrant’s activity addresses each of the judging criteria (three-page maximum).

- **CV**: curriculum vitae of entrant (two-page maximum).

- **Reference letter/s**: a minimum of one and a maximum of three reference letters supporting the application and the quality of the applicant. The letter(s) should be written by someone who is a senior academic (Level C or above) and who is familiar with the research and quality of the applicant. Judges will rely on the reference letter(s) to provide additional perspective and informed opinion on applicants (reference letters are not included in the final page count).

Please also provide a:

- **Photograph**: with your email application, please attach a separate jpeg file of yourself for promotional purposes (preferably landscape orientation and from above the waist and 10 MB).

Additional Information:

- **Prize**: The Early Career Researcher of the Year – HASS category winner will receive $5,000 (AU) award that will be allocated into a project account (expiring 31 December 2025) to be used by the winner to support further research endeavours.

- Applications with incomplete sets of supporting information will not be considered and judges will only consider what has been provided within the parameters (e.g. page maximums, PDF format single document).

- Applications must be no more than six total pages in length (not including references).

- Applicants are encouraged to obtain senior academic review/mentoring to develop the quality of their applications.

- Finalists of the ECR showcase are especially encouraged to apply.

- Previous winners of Macquarie University Research Excellence Awards Early Career Researcher categories are not eligible to re-apply.

- The deliberations of the judging panel are confidential, and all recommendations and decisions taken are binding and final and no correspondence will be entered into on such matters.

- The judges reserve the right not to award the prize if they feel the entries are insufficiently meritorious.

- No entries received after the closing date will be considered.

Please submit your application via the Research Excellence Awards webpage by 11:59 PM on 9 June 2023. Late applications will not be considered.

Please refer to the Research Excellence Awards webpage for further information regarding the awards.