Logos/ACGR%20Awards_Logo.pdf

## Overview

The Australian Council of Graduate Research proudly presents a suite of awards for Excellence in Graduate Research Education. These awards were made for the first time in 2017 to publically promote quality in higher degree research (HDR) supervision, leadership and industry engagement.

The awards not only recognise and reward excellence in Graduate Research Education but will also contribute to good practice in HDR supervision and leadership amongst all ACGR member institutions and encourage them to establish their own award programs.

The following awards will be presented in 2023:

* Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision, sponsored by ResearchMaster
* Excellence in Graduate Research Leadership, sponsored by Epigeum
* Excellence in Promoting Industry Engagement in Graduate Research
* Excellence in Graduate Research Programs and Support

Recipients of each award will be publicly recognised at a public event in April or May and featured on the ACGR website. Each will also receive a grant of $3000.

## Eligibility

1. Individuals or groups from all ACGR full and associate member institutions may be nominated for any award.
2. All nominations must be endorsed by their ACGR representative or nominee.
3. Nominees must have had a continuing or contract position at no less than 0.4 EFT, or an adjunct appointment, at their nominated University for a minimum of two years at the time of application. In the case of a team at least half of the members of the team must meet this condition.
4. Individuals and teams may only apply in one category in any given year.
5. Award recipients are not eligible for renomination in the same award category within three years of receiving an award in that category.

## Nominations

1. Individuals or groups may be nominated by the Dean of Graduate Research (or equivalent) on behalf of their institution
2. Deans of Graduate Research may only make one nomination per category per year
3. ACGR member institutions may choose either to nominate the winners of their university level awards for the ACGR awards or to endorse individual nominations that arise independently and are indicative of the level of excellent practice within their institution
4. Nominations must be submitted on the appropriate form, abide by stated word lengths and received by the published closing date each year.

## 2023 Award Timetable

For the 2023 awards:

* Nominations are now open and must be received by close of 5.00 pm AEST on 20 March 2023
* The selection panel will meet in early April 2023 and applicants advised of the outcomes by mid-April;
* Awards will be presented at the ACGR conference dinner or via a special webinar expected to be held in late April or early May; and

## Award Details and Selection Criteria

### Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision, sponsored by ResearchMaster

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This will be awarded to an individual HDR supervisor or team of supervisors who demonstrate excellence in supervisory practice and supervision leadership for graduate outcomes.

The judging panel will consider documented evidence of:

* principles and strategies which guide:
* a commitment to excellent research supervision;
* a commitment for leadership in research supervision including the provision of mentoring to less experienced supervisors;
* successful and timely HDR completions;
* co-publication or production of research outputs with, or by, their candidates;
* facilitation of HDR candidate’s employability skills and professional networks; and
* facilitation of end-user engagement.

### Excellence in Graduate Research Leadership

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This will be awarded to an individual academic in a research training leadership role who demonstrates 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.

The judging panel will consider, in light of the graduate research leadership/governance system across their university, the nominee’s contributions to:

* initiatives that have enabled a strong and supportive intellectual community for HDR candidates within their academic unit;
* the development and maintenance of high quality and innovative HDR and/or skill development program;
* effective support and mentoring for HDR supervisors; and
* the development and strengthening of institutional and local HDR strategy and policy.

### Excellence in Promoting Industry Engagement in Graduate Research

This will be awarded to an individual or team of HDR supervisors, coordinators or professional staff who have initiated or supported innovative and transformational engagement between higher degree research candidates and industry partners.

The Judging Panel will consider documented evidence of:

* initiatives that have enabled successful and effective collaborations between HDR candidates and industry partners,
* HDR programs and/or supervision that supports candidates to develop strong employability skills and wide professional networks,
* projects or initiatives that promote HDR candidates and graduates to industry

### Excellence in Graduate Research Programs and Support

This award recognises outstanding service in the provision of a high-quality environment for graduate research students or staff through positive and engaging experiences.

This will be awarded to an individual or team of professional and/or academic staff who have delivered transformational engagement or support programs or services in graduate research education.

Nominees must demonstrate their provision of outstanding support for graduate research education across their institution and/or the design, development and implementation of a new initiative or support service.

The Judging Panel will consider documented evidence of:

* new initiatives that have enabled the development of strong and supportive; communities of HDR candidates or innovative research training programs; or
* outstanding service to HDR candidates and supervisory staff with clear impacts or benefits to the graduate research community; or
* changes or improvements to work practices that impact HDR candidates/programs; or
* projects or initiatives that promote HDR candidates and programs beyond the University.

## Advice for Nominees

When completing applications, nominees should:

* respond to each of the selection criteria listed on the nomination forms in the first person;
* reflect on drivers for any changes or programs they have implemented and the impacts of these initiatives;
* comment, where appropriate, on achievements relative to opportunity throughout their time in the graduate research leadership or supervisory role;
* highlight any programs or initiatives that have specifically addressed or benefited Indigenous graduate research candidates and/or supervisors; and
* include supporting statements from candidates, colleagues or industry partners which highlight the benefits of the work done by the nominee(s) for candidates.

## Prizes

A $3000 grant will be presented to each award recipient/team of recipients.

Travel expenses will be provided to attend the award dinner (if required).

## Judging Panel

An independent and expert panel will be established to judge all four awards. The panel will comprise:

1. The ACGR Convenor (or nominee) as a non-voting Chair
2. A DVC – Research/Research and Innovation
3. Two Deans Graduate Research, or equivalentnominated by the ACGR Convenor
4. A current HDR candidate representative
5. An industry representative
6. A winner of a previous ACGR Excellence Award