

## **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 publicly promote quality in higher degree research supervision, leadership, industry engagement and programs and support.

These awards not only recognise and reward international excellence but will also contribute to good practice in higher degree research (HDR) supervision and leadership amongst all ACGR members and encourage institutions to establish their own award programs.

The following awards will be presented in 2024:

ACGR Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision sponsored by ResearchMaster

ACGR Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Leadership sponsored by Epigeum

ACGR Award for Excellence in Promoting Industry Engagement in Graduate Research

ACGR Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Programs and Support

Winners of each award will be publicly recognised at the ACGR National Meeting in April 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 each 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 .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 nomination, the majority 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 may be nominated by the Dean of Graduate Studies (or equivalent) in their institution.
2. Institutions 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.

## **2024 Award Timetable**

For the 2024 awards:

* Nominations are now open and must be received by close of 5 pm AEST on (February 16, 2024)
* The selection panel will meet in early March 2024 and winners advised by mid March.
* Awards will be presented at the ACGR National Meeting dinner in April 2024.
* Category winners will also be invited to present at one of the ACGR webinars throughout 2024.

## **Award Details and Selection Criteria**



### ACGR Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Supervision sponsored by ResearchMaster

This will be awarded to an individual HDR supervisor or team of supervisors who demonstrate a track record of successful HDR candidate outcomes and engagement in high quality supervisory practice and research supervision leadership.

The judging panel will consider documented evidence of:

* demonstrated engagement in high quality and innovative research supervision practice,
* successful and timely HDR completions,
* any co-publication or production of other research outputs with or by their candidates,
* the development of HDR candidate’s employability skills and professional networks,
* promotion of industry engagement,
* leadership in research supervision including the provision of mentoring to less experienced supervisors,
* positive post-graduation outcomes of candidates

### ACGR Award for Excellence in Graduate Research Leadership sponsored by Epigeum

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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 the 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 programs,
* effective support and mentoring for HDR supervisors,
* the development and strengthening of institutional and local HDR strategy and policy

### ACGR Award for 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 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.

### ACGR Award for 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 may consider 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 candidates and staff with clear impacts or benefits to the graduate research community; or
* changes or improvements to work practices impacting on graduate research candidates/programs: or
* projects or initiatives that promote HDR candidates and programs beyond the university

Nominees for this award will not be considered for any of the other ACGR awards in the same year.

## **Judging Panel and Process**

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

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

## **Advice for Nominees**

When completing their applications for these awards, 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
* seek supporting statements from candidates, colleagues and industry partners which highlight the benefits to candidates of the work done by the nominee

## **Prizes**

A $3000 grant will be presented to each award winning individual or team.