



Vice-Chancellor and RMIT Research Awards and Prizes – Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can I nominate myself for an award or prize?

A. No. All Research Awards and Prizes, including the DSC Awards and Prizes, are by nomination only (with the nominee's consent). Individuals or teams must be nominated by someone else via the online SmartyGrants form.

Q. Who is allowed to fill in the online nomination form?

A. The form may be completed by either the nominator or the nominee (with the nominator's consent), or collaboratively. However, the application must have a nominator who is not the nominee.

Q. Who should I seek an endorsement from in my College? Who is my Dean?

A. You will need an email endorsement from your Dean, Head of School, or their delegate. This email should confirm their support for your nomination. Ask your supervisor or consult the [RMIT Schools and Colleges directory](#) if unsure who to contact.

Q. How many statements of support do I need?

A. A minimum of two statements of support must be uploaded with the online form. One of these must be written by the nominator and must address the selection criteria. Additional statements can be provided by colleagues, supervisors, external stakeholders, or others familiar with your work. Multiple statements are encouraged.

Q. Is a statement of support from an industry partner required for the HDR Supervision Awards?

A. No. A statement from an industry partner is only required for the *RMIT Award for Research Engagement and Impact – Industry Engagement in Graduate Research*.

Q. Are teams in Research Centres eligible for awards?

A. Yes, teams within Research Centres are eligible, but entire Centres are not. Team nominations should reflect meaningful contributions by all members. Transdisciplinary teams are encouraged.

Q. Can I submit a longer CV than the 1.5 A4 pages maximum?

A. No. The panel will only assess the first 1.5 A4 pages. Ensure your abbreviated CV highlights experiences relevant to the award criteria.

Q. How is the two-year employment requirement calculated?

A. Nominees must have been employed at RMIT for at least two years by the nomination deadline (i.e., continuously from at least 25 July 2023).

Q. Why must staff have an appointment through the end of 2025?

A. Staff nominees must have a current RMIT appointment that continues through the end of 2025. This ensures eligibility to receive the award and disbursement of prize funds.



Q. Can honorary staff be nominators?

A. Yes. Honorary staff may nominate others and provide statements of support. However, they are not eligible to be nominated for awards themselves.

Q. How do I calculate the research period that will be assessed?

A. All research output is relevant, including work conducted outside of RMIT and across disciplines. However, assessment focuses on a recent period appropriate to the award category:

- For Early Career Researcher (ECR) awards, the last 3 years
- For Mid-Career Researcher (MCR) awards, the last 5 years
- For Open categories, up to 10 years, though flexibility may apply.

Work completed while at RMIT will be most highly regarded. Research achievements may include traditional and non-traditional outputs, such as exhibitions, awards, media coverage, and engagement.

Q. Can I apply for an individual extension to the nomination deadline?

A. Extensions to the deadline are not generally possible due to ensuring equity for all nominees. While we understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise, exceptions are extremely rare and only considered under exceptional conditions. We encourage all applicants to plan carefully and finalise their submissions well before the deadline.

Q. Can HDR candidates nominate their supervisors for an award?

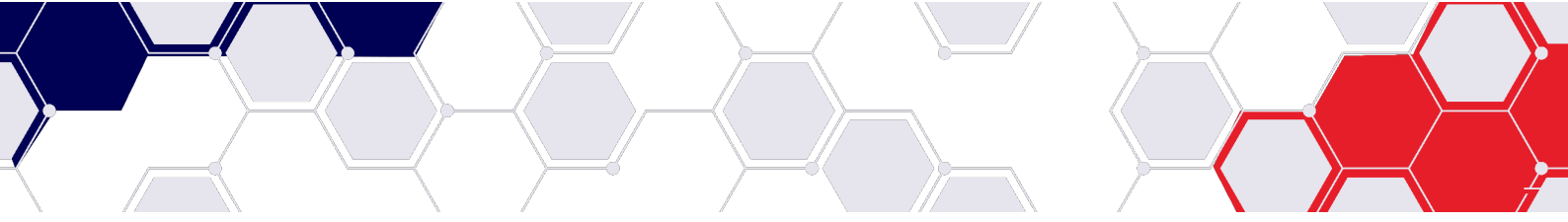
A. Yes, HDR candidates are welcome to nominate their supervisors and we strongly encourage this. You will need to identify an RMIT academic familiar with your supervisor's work to assist with the nomination. If you are leading the nomination, please ensure your statement of support is clearly marked as a nominator's statement.

Q. Can I submit a nomination anonymously?

A. If you prefer your identity as nominator to remain confidential, this can be arranged. You will need to complete the application in full, and then contact us directly at reward.recognition.research@rmit.edu.au to request anonymity. We are happy to respect this request where feasible.

Q. Are awards allocated by College?

A. No. Awards are not distributed by College. The panel includes senior academics from across all Colleges to ensure a fair and representative process. Equity and diversity are considered in the final decisions.



Q. Are HDR candidates still required to have completed within four years?

A. No. The previous four-year completion requirement has been removed. HDR nominees must now meet updated eligibility:

- For the HDR *Research Excellence Prizes*: you must have completed your RMIT HDR degree between **1 January 2024 and 25 July 2025**, with your thesis classified as *C1 Passed* or *C2 Minor Amendments*.
- For HDR *Engagement and Impact Prizes*: you must be a current HDR candidate who has completed Confirmation of Candidature and not yet graduated as of 25 July 2025.