# Vice Chancellor’s Impact and Engagement Awards 2020

# *Guidance for Nominees*

The deadline for nominations is 19 July 2020. Nominees for the Awards will be invited to attend the award ceremony and reception on 5 October 2020 in the Combination Room, The Old Schools.

**Scope and eligible activities**

The Awards will recognise outstanding achievement, innovation and creativity in impact and public engagement with research activity which has the potential to create significant economic, social and cultural impact from research, and engage broad publics, new stakeholders and/or underserved audiences.

Impact and Engagement activities includes, but are not limited to, an effect on, change or benefit to:

* activity, attitude, awareness, behaviour, capacity, opportunity, performance, policy, practice, process or understanding
* a stakeholder, audience, beneficiary, community, constituency, organisation or individuals
* any geographic location whether locally, regionally, nationally or internationally
* the reduction or prevention of harm, risk, cost or other negative effects
* major impacts on curricula and teaching pedagogy which extend significantly beyond the University of Cambridge
* research communication through a variety of media;
* public engagement with research through festivals, exhibitions, performances, partnerships with arts, heritage and cultural organisations;
* engagement with policy-makers;
* engagement with business and industry collaborations;
* engagement with any other non-academic stakeholder group which has potential for social, economic and/or cultural impact
* commercialisation of research through spin-outs and licensing;
* partnerships with public services including the wider education sector and schools, NHS, local government, government agencies, and other public bodies;

Impact on research or the advancement of academic knowledge within the higher education sector (whether in the UK or internationally) is excluded.

**Award categories and criteria**

Early Career Researcher Award

Applications/nominations can be made for current University of Cambridge PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and research fellows. Award candidates must be based at the University of Cambridge at the point of application. Impact and engagement activities should be strongly linked to research conducted at The University of Cambridge.

Strong applications could highlight some of the following:

* A strong relationship between the impact/engagement activity and the underpinning research
* An active and leading role by the researcher in making impact and/or engagement happen or a key role in supporting other’s to do so
* A clearly justified set of relevant stakeholders and/or beneficiaries
* Evidence of a clearly defined and appropriately resourced plan, including activities and outputs which are timely, appropriate to the scale and objectives of the project, and well-defined
* Evidence of the benefits, changes, and/or effects of the activity to/on the research, researcher and/or publics

Established Academic Awards

Applications/nominations can be made for current University of Cambridge academic and research staff (excluding PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and research fellows who are encouraged to apply for the Early Career Researcher Award).

Strong applications could highlight some of the following:

* A strong relationship between the impact/engagement activity and the underpinning research
* An active and leading role by the researcher or academic in making impact and/or engagement happen or a key role in supporting other’s to do so
* A clearly justified set of relevant stakeholders and/or beneficiaries
* Evidence of a clearly defined and appropriately resourced plan, including activities and outputs which are timely, appropriate to the scale and objectives of the project and well-defined
* Evidence of the benefits, changes and/or effects of the activity to the research, researcher and/or publics

Collaboration Award

Applications/nominations can be made for teams or partnerships between current University staff/students at all career stages and/or external partners.

Strong applications could highlight some of the following:

* Sustainable collaborations and/or partnership building with external bodies
* Evidence of the added value and innovation to the activities through an interdisciplinary team with a diverse backgrounds
* Evidence of a clearly defined and appropriately resourced plan between team members, including activities and outputs which are timely, appropriate to the scale and objectives of the project and well-defined
* Evidence of the benefits, changes and/or effects of the collaborative activity to the research

Professional Service Award

Applications/nominations can be made for current University of Cambridge professional support staff (including staff with Public Engagement and Impact in their job description).

Strong applications could highlight some of the following:

* Leadership in creating and adopting innovative approaches to impact and engagement activity
* Outstanding achievement in supporting academics and researchers to generate significant impact or engagement activity from research
* Evidence of the benefits, changes and/or effects to the research, researcher, publics and/or institutional structures and processes supporting impact and engagement activity

Online and remote engagement Award

During the Covid-19 pandemic, many projects were faced by severe challenges to come up with new and innovative ways to bridge the gap between research and its stakeholders without any physical contact. This new Award category celebrates the successes of remote engagement and impact initiatives. Applications/nominations can be made for current University of Cambridge PhD students, professional and academic staff (including both early career as well as established academics).

Strong applications could highlight some of the following:

* Leadership in creating innovative approaches to online or remote impact and engagement activity
* Outstanding achievement in adapting existing projects to enable their delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic
* Evidence of the benefits, changes and/or effects to/on the research, researcher, publics, and/or institutional structures and processes supporting impact and engagement activity (this can be through media approaches, online interactions or similar formats that do not require any physical contact)

College Researchers and College Professional Staff are fully eligible to apply for the 2020 Vice-chancellor’s Awards.

**Application/Nomination and Award process**

1. Those eligible for awards may self-nominate or can be nominated by a third party. All applications will be treated the same and the judging panel will not be informed about whether an application was self-nominated put forward by a third party. Nominations must be made using the appropriate application form and submitted by email to [Alina.Loth@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Alina.Loth@admin.cam.ac.uk) by no later than 19 July 2020.
2. Nominations/applications can be made for multiple categories.
3. Applicants from previous award years are welcome to apply again with further developed projects. Previous award winners may apply again with new activities but will not be judged again on the same project.
4. Underpinning research must be conducted from January 2000 to date with impact generated from August 2013 to date.
5. Please submit your application as a word document and name it by award title and applicant name “category\_surname” e.g. **EarlyCareerAward\_Smith.docx**
6. Together with the application, please submit a head shot of the applicant/nominee/team as well as some pictures/visualisations showcasing the project. These will be used for the award ceremony and any linked promotions of the event.
7. All nominees will be invited to an award ceremony and reception hosted by the Vice-Chancellor on 5 October 2020 where the winners will be announced.
8. Winners will be asked to participate in University-wide and external communications about the Research Impact and Engagement Awards.

**Assessment**

Nominations will be judged by an interdisciplinary panel including internal and external professional staff, academics and research users.

**Further advice and support**

Please contact Dr Alina Loth with any queries or for advice on your application: [alina.loth@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alina.loth@admin.cam.ac.uk)