

## MPLS Impact Awards: Guidance 2017-18

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### Context

The annual MPLS Impact Awards aim to foster and raise awareness of impact by rewarding it at a local level, and preparing the ground for the impact case studies that will be needed for REF 2021, and future similar exercises. Awards are presented at the MPLS Winter Reception, with a pay award of £1,000 (minus taxes) made to the individual.

### Award categories

Individuals may be nominated in any *one* of the following categories.

#### **Category 1**

To recognise researchers at any career stage for research that has had significant ***commercial (economic) impact*** since 1 August 2013.

#### **Category 2**

To recognise researchers at any career stage for research that has had significant ***non-commercial impact*** since 1 August 2013.

Non-commercial impact includes social impact, impact on health and wellbeing, policy influence and change, cultural impact and environmental impact.

#### **Category 3**

To recognise ***Early Career Researchers'*** independent engagement with external organisations or end-users, as laying the foundations for future impactful research.

Early Career Researchers (ECRs) are defined as those within seven years of their DPhil award. ECR nominations should demonstrate engagement that is beyond what might be expected, as compared with their peers.

#### **Category 4**

To recognise researchers at any career stage who have achieved significant impact since 1 August 2013 through high-quality ***public engagement with research*** activities.

High quality public engagement with research is any project that seeks to inform and inspire, consult or collaborate with defined public audiences in a purposeful manner that utilises appropriate methods, and is suitably evaluated. Projects/researchers that have received a *Vice Chancellors Award for Public Engagement with Research* are not eligible to be nominated for an MPLS Impact Award for the same project unless demonstrably significant progress has been made. Researchers who have submitted an application for a VC PER Award or who have been highly commended can be nominated.

## How to apply

The application process is intended to be light touch, with REF definitions for impact applied. All current and retired academic staff and senior researchers are eligible to apply (unless otherwise specifically stated under the category details). Individuals are welcome to submit applications relating to themselves or to nominate others. The intention is that only one award will be made in each category, apart from in exceptional cases.

Applications should indicate which category of award is being applied for and include an evidenced account (not exceeding 400 words) describing the activity in question, the contribution of the nominee and, in particular, a short verifiable statement of the impact (or likely impact in the case of Category 4).

Nominations should be submitted to Dr Lizzie Peachey at [elizabeth.peachey@mpls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elizabeth.peachey@mpls.ox.ac.uk) by **12 noon on Monday 8 January 2018**.

## Assessment process

Once the applications have been received, Heads of Department will be invited to endorse or otherwise comment on all applications from their department. Applications will then be assessed by a cross-divisional panel, chaired by Prof Alison Noble, MPLS Associate Head (Industrial Liaison and Innovation).

## Contact information

Please direct any queries in the first instance to Dr Lizzie Peachey (Assistant Registrar – Planning & Research Impact, MPLS) at [elizabeth.peachey@mpls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elizabeth.peachey@mpls.ox.ac.uk).