

MPLS Impact Awards: Guidance 2019-20

Please read guidance notes before applying to MPLS Impact Awards.

Context

The annual MPLS Impact Awards aim to foster and raise awareness of impact by rewarding it at a local level, and prepare 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.

Eligibility

MPLS Impact Awards are open to all researchers in Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division. Researchers who have submitted an application for a *Vice Chancellor's Innovation Award/Vice Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Award*, or who have been highly commended can be nominated. However, projects/researchers that have received either a *Vice Chancellor's Innovation Award* or a *Vice Chancellor's Public Engagement with Research Award* are not eligible to be nominated for an MPLS Impact Award for the same project, in a similar or related category, unless demonstrably significant progress has been made. Nominations of large research programme teams/consortia are not eligible, however their researchers can be nominated for their individual achievements.

Award categories

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

- **Commercial Impact**

To recognise researchers at any career stage for research that has had significant commercial/economic impact since 1 August 2015. Examples could be the establishment of spin-out companies, contributions from collaborative working with business, or research that has led to licensing deals or the development of new products, tools and technologies. This category is open to those that have provided a financial return, or those that are not commercially profitable yet.

- **Social Impact**

To recognise researchers at any career stage for research that has had significant social impact since 1 August 2015.

The social impact category could include a broad range of impacts of research, such as those on wider society, health and wellbeing, advocacy, public policy, ethical and cultural issues, practice, public health, social enterprise, the third sector, culture and the environment, etc.

- **Early Career Impact**

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

Early Career Researchers (ECRs) are defined as those within seven years of their DPhil award (hence, DPhil students may not apply to the ECR category). ECR nominations should demonstrate engagement that is beyond what might be expected, as compared with their peers.

- **Public Engagement with Research Impact**

To recognise researchers at any career stage who have achieved significant impact since 1 August 2015 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.

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 describing the activity in question, the contribution of the nominee/applicant and, in particular, a short verifiable statement of the impact (or likely impact in the case of Early Career Impact and Public Engagement with Research Impact categories).

Nominations should be submitted to Dr Anuj Bhatt at research@mpls.ox.ac.uk by **12 noon on Monday 9 December 2019**.

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 Professor Dermot O'Hare, MPLS Associate Head (Industrial Liaison and Innovation).

Contact information

Please direct any queries in the first instance to Dr Anuj Bhatt (Impact and Innovation Officer, MPLS) at research@mpls.ox.ac.uk.

Assessment criteria

The Panel will be looking at MPLS Impact Award applications for clear **evidence**:

- that impact has been achieved (or is likely to be realised in future – for ECR and PER categories), and is underpinned by research;
- of the significance/scale of the impact – such as the importance or magnitude of change/benefit;
- of the reach of the impact – such as extent or range of people or organisations to benefit.