



**Stellenbosch**  
UNIVERSITY  
IYUNIVESITHI  
UNIVERSITEIT

forward together  
sonke siya phambili  
saam vorentoe

## Research and Innovation Excellence Awards

### About the awards

Stellenbosch University's (SU's) Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Studies Responsibility Centre (RC) relies heavily on the research and innovation expertise of its people, excellent infrastructure and an impeccable reputation to deliver high quality training, produce new knowledge and conduct research needed to solve problems in our environment and society.

Impactful research is one of the main drivers that measures the value add of SU to knowledge generation and high-end skills training. This ensures our research agenda optimises the scientific, economic, social, scholarly and cultural impact of the research outcomes. Our focus is on inter- and trans-disciplinary research that benefits society on a local, regional, national, continental and global (LRNCG) scale. We also acknowledge the important role that fundamental and disciplinary research plays, as this forms the basis for applied and translational research. We therefore continue to invest in research excellence to help us achieve our vision of being "Africa's leading research-intensive university, recognised as excellent, inclusive and innovative, where we advance knowledge in service of society".

The Research, Innovation and Postgraduate (RI&PG) studies landscape is characterised by a vast array of research-related activities and initiatives of our researchers and their students. Our researchers do their work not only for the purposes of knowledge production in their respective fields but also to make a real difference in society by addressing real life challenges in our society and delivering solutions, services and innovations as part of 'research for impact' objective.

Research-related activities and outputs make a critical contribution to expanding SU's international reputation as an excellent research-intensive university and make a significant contribution to SU's annual income through grants. More importantly is the fact that new knowledge generated at SU in this manner is transferred to a broader national and global audience, thus enhancing the application of research results and the establishment of high-level human capacity. Researchers are therefore some of the most important assets at any university.

The Research and Innovation Excellence Awards therefore give recognition to a group of SU researchers/innovators, postdoctoral research fellows and postgraduate students for their exceptional and excellent contribution towards SU's research enterprise.

## Eligibility

The purpose of the awards is to stimulate research and innovation excellence by acknowledging and rewarding exceptional SU staff members, postgraduate students and postdocs who have been engaged in high quality, impactful research, knowledge transfer, or research-related activities over a sustained period of time. The awards are open to all SU staff members, postgraduate students as well as postdoctoral research fellows. Previous awardees may only be nominated again after 3 years of an award, except for the postgraduate supervision award and top research output award. If a nomination was unsuccessful in a particular round, it may be submitted again for consideration in a next round. A representative awards committee will be responsible for the final selection of awardees in each category. The award amounts should be used towards further research-related activities. Postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows have the option to have the award paid into their personal accounts.

## Award Categories

### RECTOR AND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S RESEARCH FOR IMPACT AWARD

This award focuses on most impactful research over the past three (3) years. It not only includes scholarly impact but also impact that has an effect on change or benefit to the economy, society, community, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia.

Nominations should be based on sustained excellence and could include aspects such as journal impact factors, citations, reviews, accolades, recognition by relevant communities or sectors, etc. Nominations should include a short biosketch and CV of the candidate, as well as a written motivation and any supporting documents (including a publication list of the relevant output, a statement about the impact/relevance of the research, any reviews, appreciation/recognition from relevant communities or sectors etc.) and must be submitted by the Dean/Vice-Dean: Research of the Faculty/Director of the School.

One award will be made. This will consist of a monetary award of R50 000 and a trophy.

### BEST POSTGRADUATE STUDENT

This award recognises the best postgraduate students (Masters and PhD) who have graduated at SU in the year preceeding the award year (e.g. for the 2023 award year, the December 2022/March 2023 graduations will count).

Masters student nominees must have presented at a research conference and have at least one published or accepted research publication and/or creative output based on their Masters.

PhD student nominees must have presented at a research conference and published at least two research publications and/or creative outputs based on their PhD.

Nominations should include a short biosketch and CV of the candidate, as well as a written motivation, and must be submitted by the SU supervisor and endorsed by the Dean/Vice-Dean: Research of the Faculty/Director of the School. One Masters and one PhD student nomination can be submitted per faculty. A selection will be made of the top 3 Masters and top 3 PhDs.

This will consist of a monetary award of R15 000 and a certificate and trophy.

### **AWARDS FOR NEWLY A-RATED AND P-RATED RESEARCHERS**

*(This is a closed award. No nominations required. Names on awardees to be provided by the DRD based on new NRF ratings awarded in the particular award year)*

These awards will be in the form of a monetary award of R30 000 plus a certificate and trophy.

### **POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION**

Researchers who supervised and successfully graduated 3 or more PhDs in the award period.

*(This is a closed award. No nominations required. Names on awardees to be provided by the DRD based on SU graduations)*

This award gives recognition to SU researchers who have graduated the most PhD students in the year previous to the award year (e.g. for the 2023 award year, the December 2022/March 2023 graduations will count). This will consist of a monetary award of R25 000 plus a certificate.

### **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER/INNOVATION AWARD**

*(This is a closed award. No nominations required. Awardees to be identified by Innovus)*

This award recognises a researcher or research unit whose Innovation has had impact in society in the last 2 years preceding the award year, has had a patent(s) registered/granted, or filed in the last 2 years preceding the award year, or had a novel commercialisable/transferable disclosure in the last year preceding the award year.

Two awards maximum will be presented. This will consist of a monetary award of R20 000, plus a certificate and trophy.

### **EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER**

Nominees should be SU staff members who are early career researchers, with at least a Masters degree, or PhD not longer than eight years, preferably with an NRF Y-Rating, and not yet appointed at senior academic level) who have demonstrated significant growth in terms of publications and graduated students, and have been able to source research funding. Nominations should include a biosketch and CV of the candidate, a motivation, publication list and masters and/or PhD students supervised (this can include ongoing supervision)/graduated, grants/funding received. Nominations to be submitted by the Dean/Vice-Dean: Research of the Faculty/Director of the School. Self-nominations will be accepted.

The top five awardees will be selected by the awards committee. This will be a monetary award of R18 000 as well as a certificate and trophy.

## ESTABLISHED RESEARCHER

Nominees should be established researchers with a sustained research productivity profile, have a NRF rating, students graduated, as well as grant acquisitions, national and/or international networks established and collaborations over the past 3 years. Nominations (by the Dean/Vice-Dean: Research of the Faculty/Director of the School or self-nominations) should include a short biosketch and CV of the candidate, a motivation, publication list and masters and/or PhD students supervised/graduated.

The top five awardees will be selected by the awards committee. This will be a monetary award of R20 000 as well as a certificate and trophy.

## WOMEN IN RESEARCH

This award recognises a female researcher at associate professor/professor level who has demonstrated significant growth in publications, postgraduate supervision, mentoring/mentorship of others, as well as a demonstrated record of grant acquisitions. Nominations (by the Dean/Vice-Dean: Research of the Faculty/Director of the School or self-nominations) must be accompanied by a short biosketch and CV of the candidate and a motivation letter.

These awards recognise and reward excellence by women scientists and researchers, and profile them as role models for younger women.

The top three awardees will be selected by the awards committee. This will be a monetary award of R20 000 plus a certificate and trophy.

## THE CONVERSATION AFRICA AWARD: Research Communication Recognition

*(This is a closed award. No nominations required. Awardees to be identified by The Conversation Africa)*

## POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW AWARDS

*The postdoc awards are administered by the Postdoctoral Office. A separate call will go out to all postdocs for the subcategories where nominations are applicable.*

Distinguished Postdoc Mentor: Presented every 5 years, this award recognises mentorship excellence with regards to the number of Postdoctoral Research Fellows supported over a period of 5 years, and the financial investment in fellowship amounts. **The cutoff for selection is set at 20 Postdoctoral Research Fellows hosted in a period of 5 years.** *(This is a closed award process. No nominations required)*

Postdoctoral Research Fellow of the Year: For the purpose of recognition with regards to accredited publications, we take two categories into account, namely (i) Postdoctoral researchers

making the biggest contributions in terms of the publication subsidy units (PUs) of the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) (cut-off this year was 1 for individual author claimed PUs and 3 for total PUs claimed) and (ii) Postdoctoral researchers who produced the highest number of accredited research publications in collaboration with their national and international research partners and students (**cut-off is 5 publications**). *(This is a closed award process. No nominations required).*

Outstanding Postdoc Mentor Award: Named in honour of the passion and investment in Postdocs, this award (by nomination) honours Hosts of Postdoctoral Research Fellows for their excellence in leadership, commitment to Postdoctoral Researcher development and excellence in the advancement of future research. **(For this award, postdocs nominate mentors)**

DVCs Top 5 Postdoctoral Research Fellows: This award recognises postdoctoral research fellows who have contributed to research, scholarship and community through publications, grants awarded, participation in supervision and teaching, engagements with community, government and industry. **(This is an open nomination process – nominations received by postdocs)**

## **DVC INTERDISCIPLINARY/GROUP AWARD**

The DVC: RI&PGs Interdisciplinary/Group Award recognises outstanding research performance at a high international level by a research group at Stellenbosch University.

The basis for selection is outstanding scholarly achievement that enhances the understanding, development and well-being of individuals and society including the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge, the development of innovative technology, or the development of concepts that lead to significant advances. The award recognises achievement during the previous five years. Nominations (by the Dean/Vice-Dean: Research of the Faculty/Director of the School or self-nominations) should include a motivation on why this group is deserving of the award, as well as any other relevant supporting documentation.

The value of this award is R35 000.

## **DVC TOP RESEARCH OUTPUT AWARD**

*(No nominations are required for this category as it will be based on the DHET accredited outputs/units of the last two years before the award year.*

For the purpose of the recognition with regards to accredited publications, we will consider researchers who made the biggest contributions in terms of the publication subsidy units (PUs) of the DHET and who produced the highest number of accredited research publications in collaboration with their national and international research partners and students.

For the 2023 awards, outputs submitted to and approved by the DHET for the 2021 publication year will be considered.

Five (5) awards will be made. This will consist of a monetary award of R25 000 and a certificate and trophy.

**Submission process:**

Nominations are to be submitted electronically to Maryke Hunter-Hüsselmann ([mh3@sun.ac.za](mailto:mh3@sun.ac.za)) by 22 September 2023.

**Important date:**

Deadline for submission of nominations: 22 September 2023

**Enquiries:** Maryke Hunter-Hüsselmann ([mh3@sun.ac.za](mailto:mh3@sun.ac.za))