



UOW 2009 Vice Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership

Background

The Vice Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research Partnership recognises the importance that UOW research staff play in the process of initiating, developing, enhancing and managing UOW's research partnerships and the multiple and significant benefits that these relationships bring to the University as a whole.

UOW encourages staff to undertake contract research and collaborative research with external research partners. These research partnerships provide many significant benefits to the university, including research funding, shared expertise, access to government funding, publications, enhanced reputation, the development of intellectual property, and student scholarships. The process of initiating, developing, enhancing and managing research partnerships is a time-consuming process that deserves recognition when it is performed well. In addition, it is important to celebrate our research partnerships and recognise the research partners' role in establishing and maintaining these.

There is one award available annually and it will only be issued for nominations that demonstrate exceptional and outstanding achievements in research partnership.

Eligibility

All current UOW staff who were involved in a research partnership (including collaborative research, contract research, or a collaborative grant project such as an ARC Linkage) in the previous year (*e.g.* in 2008 for the 2009 award) are eligible to apply. Partners can be government departments, businesses, industry, not-for-profit organisations or other non-university research institutions (*e.g.* CSIRO or ANSTO). Other universities are not considered eligible partners. Projects involving multiple partners are eligible so long as at least one partner is an eligible partner.

Nominations

Nominations must be made by a past or present UOW staff member or a representative of the research partner involved. Nominations must be on the appropriate form and must include at least a half page testimonial from each nominator. A single staff member or team of staff may be nominated. Self nominations are acceptable.

Nominations will be called for, by Personnel Services, to nominate a staff member involved in a project for the year preceding the Award year (*e.g.* a project initiated or continuing in 2008, for the 2009 award). Nominations will be forwarded to the Director of the Commercial Research Unit. The Award will be presented at the Vice-Chancellor's Awards ceremony.

Prize

The staff winner(s) will receive a plaque and a cash prize of \$4,000 (to be shared amongst the team nominees) and will be formally acknowledged at the Vice-Chancellor's Awards ceremony. In addition, the external research partner will receive a plaque and will be formally acknowledged at the annual Vice-Chancellor's Awards ceremony. The Award would be available as a university research account to be used by the individuals to further their research and/or professional development. The award cannot be taken as salary.

Criteria

Nominations will be judged on a range of criteria that may include, but are not limited to the following:

- the extent to which the nominee(s) played an active role in the initiation, development, enhancement or management of the research partnership;
- the extent to which the nominee(s) have demonstrated effective communication with their research partner(s);
- satisfaction of the research partner with the partnership;
- what benefits the partnership and the project itself bring to the university as a whole (including but not limited to research funding, shared expertise, access to government funding, publications, enhanced reputation, the development of intellectual property, and student scholarships);
- strategies that enhance, improve and develop the partnership;
- the likelihood that the partnership will build beyond the current project; and
- the value of the interaction.

Nominations are considered on the basis of each partnership and the number of research partnerships that a staff member has is not a criterion considered by the Committee. Staff members who receive nominations for several research partnerships will not be at an advantage and it is strongly encouraged that the strongest research partnership be chosen as the basis of the nomination.

Selection

The award will be decided by a Committee chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). Other members will include the Director of the Commercial Research Unit, the Director of the Research Services Office, a Level E (Professor) research staff member and a previous winner of the award (once established).

In making a decision, the Committee may interview relevant persons as necessary and may contact the appropriate research partner. The Committee will make a recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor's decision is final and there will be no appeal of the outcome.

Administration

The award will be administered as for all other Vice-Chancellor's awards, by Personnel and Financial Services.