

## Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards 2024

**Nomination Guidelines** 

Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

For further information, please contact: dvcre@csu.edu.au

Charles Sturt University - TEQSA Provider Identification: PRV12018 (Australian University). CRICOS Provider: 00005F.



## Contents

Purpose	3
Award Categories	3
Awards Eligibility	3
Awards Prizes	4
Awards Selection Committee	5
Key Dates	5
The Nomination Process	5
Online Process through RED Gateway	6
Expectations of Award Recipients	6
Enquiries	6
Appendix 1. Criteria for Assessment	7
Appendix 2. Nomination Templates	11
Appendix 3. Awardees' report	14

## **Purpose**

Charles Sturt University continues to recognise excellence in research through the Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards. These awards encourage and recognise emerging researchers undertaking research of major importance in their field; outstanding researchers with proven international reputations and researchers who have made a significant contribution in advancing knowledge and research outcomes with social impact including cultivating partnerships.

Awards will be presented in seven categories and will be announced at the Research Awards Dinner in Canberra on the evening of Wednesday 27 November, 2024

## **Award Categories**

### 1. Excellence as an Early Career Researcher

Award for outstanding research undertaken by an early career researcher and three commendation awards, one for a researcher from each Faculty.

#### 2. First Nations Researcher of the Year

Award for outstanding research led by a First Nations researcher.

#### 3. Researcher/Research Team of the Year

Award for outstanding research with outcomes extending beyond the University and three commendation awards (in total) awarded to a researcher/research team from each Faculty.

### 4. Higher Degree by Research Supervisor of the Year

Award for outstanding supervision of Higher Degree Research candidates.

## 5. Higher Degree by Research Thesis/Creative Work of the Year

Award for outstanding research undertaken by a Higher Degree Research candidate and three commendation awards for an HDR candidate, one from each Faculty.

## 6. Research Excellence through Partnership

Award recognising the importance of university researchers initiating, developing, and managing high quality research partnerships with community, industry or international partners.

## 7. Teaching Scholar of the Year

Award for a teaching focused academic (including casual staff) engaged in high quality scholarship informed teaching practice.

#### **Awards Eligibility**

Eligibility criteria vary based on the specific Award category outlined below.

Individuals can self-nominate or be nominated by someone else. Invitations to apply may also be issued.

Previous sole winners cannot win again for the three consecutive years following winning the Award. The exception is if a previous winner was part of a research team but was not a lead investigator.

IMPORTANT: Charles Sturt University recognises that many factors can impact on access to research opportunities. The Awards application and assessment process takes into consideration interruptions that have affected the nominee's capacity, productivity or contribution to research. Applications will be assessed on achievement relative to opportunity. More details are available in Appendix 1 of these Guidelines.

Award	Eligibility
Excellence as an Early Career Researcher	All current full-time and part-time Charles Sturt academic staff who are research active. In Australia, an early career researcher is generally considered as an academic within five years* of the start of their academic careers and the award of a doctorate. *Please take into consideration any career interruptions when calculating duration of employment.
First Nations Researcher of the Year	All current full-time and part-time Charles Sturt academic staff who are research active.
Researcher/Research Team of the Year	All current full-time and part-time Charles Sturt academic staff who are research active. This may include professional staff who are part of the team.
Higher Degree by Research Supervisor of the Year	Academic staff registered as Research Supervisors in current full- or part-time employment at Charles Sturt.
Higher Degree by Research Thesis/Creative Work of the Year	Higher Degree by Research candidates who were registered in full- or part-time study during the period of their candidature.
Research Excellence through Partnership	All current full-time and part-time Charles Sturt academic staff who are research active. This may include business development staff who are involved in research partnerships.
Teaching Scholar of the Year	All current full-time and part-time Charles Sturt academic staff who are teaching focused.

## **Awards Prizes**

Prize money will be awarded as set out below. Funds can be used to support research-related activities such as travel, conference attendance, etc. The prize money will be allocated for the 2025 calendar year and funds will need to be expended by 30 November 2025. Funds cannot be carried over to 2026.

Award	Prize
Excellence as an Early Career Researcher	There will be one Award and three commendations, one for each Faculty. The recipient of the Award will receive <b>\$2,000</b> , while each commendation recipient will receive <b>\$1,000</b> .
First Nations Researcher of the Year	There will be one Award and the recipient will receive \$2,000.
Researcher/Research Team of the Year	There will be one Award and three commendations, one for each Faculty. The recipient of the Award will receive <b>\$2,000</b> , while each commendation recipient will receive <b>\$1,000</b> .
Higher Degree by Research Supervisor of the Year	There will be one Award and the recipient will receive \$2,000.
Higher Degree by Research Thesis/Creative Work of the Year	There will be one Award and three commendations, one for each Faculty. The recipient of the Award will receive <b>\$2,000</b> , while each commendation recipient will receive <b>\$1,000</b> .
Research Excellence through Partnership	There will be one Award and the recipient will receive \$2,000.
Teaching Scholar of the Year	There will be one Award and the recipient will receive \$2,000.

### **Awards Selection Committee**

A Selection Committee, appointed by the Vice-Chancellor (Research), will make Award and citation recommendations (if applicable) based on contributions in the criteria described below.

The Committee consists of:

- Professor Sarah O'Shea (Chair) Dean, Graduate Research, ORS&GS
- Professor Mark Evans Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
- Professor Lee Baumgartner Executive Director, Gulbali Institute
- Professor Ganna Pogrebna Executive Director, Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Futures Institute
- Professor Allen Ross Executive Director, Rural Health Research Institute
- Professor Julian Grant Assoc. Dean (Research) Faculty of Science and Health
- Professor Zahid Islam Assoc. Dean (Research) Faculty of Business, Justice, and Behavioural Sciences
- Professor Matthew Winslade Assoc. Dean (Research) Faculty of Arts and Education
- Professor Rylee Dionigi Professor in Socio-Cultural Dimension, Faculty of Science and Health
- Professor Shamsi Shokoofeh Professor in Veterinary Parasitology, Faculty of Science and Health
- Professor Tony Dreise Pro-Vice-Chancellor First Nations Engagement
- Kate Campbell (Committee Secretary)

Ex-officio: Kirsty Smith – EDI Representative [Advisor on equity]

## **Key Dates**

All nominations must be made in the appropriate format by **11:59pm AEST Sunday 29 September 2024**. Late nominations will not be accepted.

Date	
21 August 2024	Nominations open via RED Gateway
29 September 2024	Nominations close 11:59pm AEST
8 November 2024	Awards Committee meet
w/c 12 November 2024	Winners notified
27 November 2024	Winners announced at Research Awards Dinner, Canberra
28 November 2024	Winners announced via What's News and RED Gateway

## **The Nomination Process**

- 1. Nominations **by staff** are prepared and submitted via the online nomination form located within the Charles Sturt Reward Gateway (RED) with the uploaded nomination form that has been completed in line with assessment criteria (PDF) and any supporting material.
- 2. Nominations **by HDR candidates** (i.e. for the HDR Supervisor of the Year category, or HDR Thesis/Creative Work of the Year) should submit their nomination forms in PDF format via email to <a href="mailto:DeanGradResearch@csu.edu.au">DeanGradResearch@csu.edu.au</a> together with any supporting material. Ensure the title of the award is in the subject line
- 3. Once eligibility is confirmed, all applications are collated for assessment
- 4. Each application is independently assessed against the assessment criteria (Appendix 1) by each member of the Selection Committee
- Once ranked, the Selection Committee will meet to determine the award winners, who will be notified by email.

## **Online Process through RED Gateway**

Complete the online nomination online via the <u>RED Gateway</u> by following the steps below. Full nomination details are provided in a separate PDF form, which is attached to this online nomination on completion. A guide to this is in Appendix 2 and forms are available via the RED Gateway.

- 1. Select 'Research Excellence Awards' on the RED Gateway landing page.
- 2. Choose the Award category and review the Criteria for that Award ('Need information?'). Download the PDF nomination form.
  - a. Complete all fields, adhering to any word limits
- 3. Once you have completed the PDF nomination form, complete your nomination in the RED Gateway:
  - a. Your name will automatically populate as the nominator
  - b. Respond to all questions. NOTE: Nominations that are shared will appear on the RED social wall once the nomination has been assessed for eligibility.
  - select the Nominee(s) by typing the individual's name.
     For Team nominations, include Team leader and Team name in the text box below the Name field. If nominating a Team, please include all names in the Name field by selecting from the drop-down list.
  - d. Choose relevant Faculty
- 4. Upload your completed nomination form (PDF)
- 5. Upload any peer support statements if self-nomination (one PDF each)
- 6. Upload any supporting documentation (one PDF)

## **Expectations of Award Recipients**

Award recipients will be required to submit a brief report to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) (<a href="dvcre@csu.edu.au">dvcre@csu.edu.au</a>) on their use of the funds by 31 January 2026 (see Appendix 3).

Depending on the Award category, requirements for the report will change, further detail is provided below.

## **Enquiries**

For enquiries please email: <a href="mailto:DeanGradResearch@csu.edu.au">DeanGradResearch@csu.edu.au</a>

## Appendix 1. Criteria for Assessment

The Vice-Chancellor's Research Excellence Awards 2024 recognise the accomplishments of individuals whose research achievements have been outstanding over the previous three years.

Applications meeting the eligibility guidelines will be assessed on the criteria set out below. Note that there are different criteria depending on the Award.

Charles Sturt University recognises that many factors can impact access to research opportunities, and interruptions that have affected capacity, productivity or contribution to research will be taken into consideration. There is space on the application form for you to describe the impact your life circumstances have had on your access to research opportunities. Interruptions due to life circumstances can include but are not limited to:

- you belong to a culture, religion or ethnic group different from the dominant one in Australia
- you relocated to Australia from another country
- your first language, or the language you are most fluent in, is not English
- you have had community obligations, including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural practices and protocols
- you experienced or are a carer for a person with impairment, temporary or permanent disability, illness, injury or chronic conditions, including physical, mental and neurodivergent conditions
- you have a diverse gender or diverse sexuality
- you have experienced unemployment / non-research employment or limited or no access to facilities and resources (such as through workplace interruptions or part-time work)
- you work in a discipline or field where your gender is in the minority
- you had career interruptions or disruptions caused by parental leave, major or prolonged illness/injury, carer responsibilities or long-service leave
- you experienced personal trauma (for example bereavement, domestic and family violence)
- you experienced the impact of major events such as natural disasters (flooding, bushfires, storms, earthquakes), pandemics (such as the COVID-19 pandemic), war or political unrest, or other emergency situations
- you experienced other circumstances that impacted your research productivity and access to opportunities for success.

### **Excellence as an Early Career Researcher**

This award will be based on the excellence of the nominee's cumulative research activity since 2022. In Australia, an early career researcher (ECR) is generally considered as an academic within five years of the award of a doctorate.

The Selection Committee will consider the contributions of individuals to the university in terms of the research leadership, impact, and entrepreneurial spirit they have displayed, relative to opportunity.

In addition, the Selection Committee will consider achievements in the following areas over the period 2022-2024 (or equivalent 36 months of service if periods of leave are to be considered):

- 1. Research Outputs and Citations across all ERA eligible categories
- 2. Research Income: research income in Categories 1-4
- 3. Research Training: Higher Degree by Research (HDR) load and completions
- 4. Research Impact: Evidence of Research Impact: discipline, community, industry since 2022 (or equivalent)

Nominees should define the nature and significance of the research achievements and describe the importance of the research outputs in terms of originality and impact within the field. Research activity since PhD can be listed if necessary. The Selection Committee will also look at the nominee's University research productivity index profile.

#### First Nations Researcher of the Year

The Selection Committee will consider the contributions of individuals to the field of First Nations research in terms of the research leadership, impact, and entrepreneurial spirit they have displayed.

In addition, the Selection Committee will consider achievements in the following areas over the period 2022-2024 (or equivalent 36 months of service if periods of leave are to be considered):

- 1. Research Outputs and Citations across all ERA eligible categories
- 2. Research Income: research income in Categories 1-4
- 3. Research Training: Higher Degree by Research (HDR) load and completions
- 4. Research Impact: Evidence of Research Impact on the discipline, and/or community and/or industry since 2022 (or equivalent).

The Committee is mindful of the importance of community partnership and engagement in this award category. Nominees should define the nature and significance of the research achievements and describe the importance of the research outputs in terms of originality and impact within their field. The Selection Committee will also look at the nominee's University research productivity index profile.

#### Researcher/Research Team of the Year

This award for Research Excellence recognises the accomplishments of individual researchers or research teams whose research achievements have been outstanding over the previous three years.

The Selection Committee will consider the contributions that individual researchers or research teams have made to the university in terms of the research leadership, impact, and entrepreneurial spirit they have displayed.

In addition, the Selection Committee will consider achievements in the following areas over the period 2022-2024 (or equivalent 36 months of service if periods of leave are to be considered):

- 1. Research Outputs and Citations across all ERA eligible categories.
- 2. Research Income: research income in Categories 1-4.
- 3. Research Training: Higher Degree by Research (HDR) load and completions.
- 4. Research Impact: Evidence of Research Impact: discipline, community, industry since 2022.

Nominees should define the nature and significance of the research achievements and describe the importance of the research outputs in terms of originality and impact with the field. Research activity since PhD can be listed if necessary. The Selection Committee will also look at the nominee's University research productivity index profile.

### Higher Degree by Research Supervisor of the Year

This award seeks to recognise outstanding supervision of Higher Degree by Research candidates. The award aims to support a culture of excellence in supervision that helps to foster the next generation of world leading research scholars.

Nominations should address each of the following criteria.

- Demonstration of how the supervisor has contributed to student engagement institutionally, nationally and internationally.
- Evidence of how the supervisor supports their candidates to manage progress towards timely completion.
- Evidence of how the supervisor has supported the development of candidates' research design and methodological skills.
- Evidence of ongoing passion, and commitment to supervision.
- Evidence of supporting recognition of HDR research (e.g., by publication, by professional organisations, research users in industry, community, prizes and awards, invitations to conferences).
- Evidence of timely student progress and completion (will be added by the Office of Research Services and Graduate Studies).

### Higher Degree by Research Thesis/Creative Work of the Year

This award seeks to recognise outstanding research completed by HDR candidates at Charles Sturt University who have submitted a thesis or creative work for examination between 2022 and 2024.

Nominations should address each of the following criteria.

- Outline the contribution that the thesis/creative work has made to advancing knowledge in its field of study.
- Provide evidence of publication or other research outputs that have arisen from or relate to your thesis/creative work.
- Outline the evidence of research impact that the thesis/creative work has made on industry and/or community.
- Provide evidence of recognition of the research (e.g., by professional organisations, research users in industry, community, prizes and awards, invitations to conferences).

#### Research Excellence through Partnership

This award for Research Excellence recognises the importance of the University's researchers or research teams initiating, developing, and managing high quality research partnerships with community, industry or international partners during the period 2022-2024.

The Selection Committee will consider the contributions that individual researchers or research teams have made to the University in terms of building high quality and sustainable partnerships focusing on the following criteria:

- Trust how trust was built with partners.
- Impact the nature of the impacts of the research on the community, industry or domain of interest of the international partner.
- Sustainability how the partnership has been sustained over time.

In addition, the Selection Committee will consider the range of research outputs which have been produced through the partnership.

### **Teaching Scholar of the Year**

This award seeks to recognise teaching focused academics whose scholarship achieves outstanding research and teaching integration leading to high quality educational outcomes for students at Charles Sturt.

The Selection Committee will consider the contributions of teaching-focused academics to the effective integration of research into education programs delivered over the period 2022-2024. Nominations should address each of the following criteria.

- Outline the exemplar teaching program/approach for consideration.
- Describe the innovative approaches to teaching and learning that have been applied and how students will benefit from this research to support their learning outcomes.
- Provide evidence of enhanced student experience that influences, motivates, and inspires students to engage with research that have been achieved from the teaching practices.
- If possible, provide evidence of publications on teaching developments and their influence on the practice of the wider community.
- Include evidence of excellence in relation to the nominated teaching. This may include information related to measures of esteem, honours and award/prizes, and any other evaluations of the teaching practice, which are appropriate to demonstrating excellence.

## **Appendix 2. Nomination Process**

There are two parts to the nomination process. The online form in the RED Gateway and a PDF Nomination form. Nominees must complete both parts and upload the Nomination form, along with any other supporting documentation to the RED Gateway<sup>^</sup>.

- All fields\* on the PDF nomination form are compulsory.
- Self-nominations <u>will</u> be accepted.
- Supporting documentation will be accepted (one additional file, which must be provided as a PDF).
- Separate boxes will be available for each criterion below please note strict word limits. Applications that do not follow the criteria (particularly word limits) may be deemed non-assessable.
- \* Please note: if you would prefer your Equal Opportunity statement to be private, please indicate this on the PDF Nomination form. Your statement will only be provided to the Committee Chair and the representative from Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, who will provide general advice to the Selection Panel about your achievements relative to opportunity.

^HDR candidates do not have access to the RED Gateway. Applications are submitted via email.

## In the RED system, all fields are compulsory:

This includes:

- a) The name of the nominator (will automatically populate as the person logged in to the RED platform).
- b) Name of nominee and their academic discipline
- c) Is the individual/team already aware of their nomination: YES / NO
- d) Do you wish to let the individual/team know they have been nominated YES / NO
- e) Do you wish to Nominate Privately or Nominate & Share. Note: Nominations that are shared will appear on the social wall once approved by the Selection Committee.

As the Selection Committee will be reviewing CRO profiles, and RPI metrics, please ensure your data is as up-to-date as possible by closing date of Awards (29 September).

Award	Requirements
Excellence as an Early Career Researcher	<ul> <li>200-word statement defining the nature and significance of your research achievements, the importance of the research outputs in terms of originality and impact within the field, community and industry. This should be supported by Evidence of Research Impact in the past 3 active years</li> <li>List of Published Research Outputs and Citations across all ERA eligible categories in the past 3 active years</li> <li>List of Research Income in Categories 1-4 since 2022</li> <li>Research Training: Higher Degree by Research (HDR) load and completions since 2022</li> <li>If self-nominating, attach two 100-word statements of support from peers.</li> </ul>
First Nations Researcher of the Year	<ul> <li>200-word statement defining the nature and significance of the research achievements, the importance of the research outputs in terms of originality and impact within the field, community, and/or industry.</li> <li>List of Published Research Outputs and Citations across all ERA eligible categories since 2022</li> <li>List of Research Income in Categories 1-4 since 2022</li> <li>Research Training: Higher Degree by Research (HDR) load and completions since 2022</li> <li>Evidence of Research Impact working with First Nations communities and evidence of disciplinary impact since 2022. 200 words</li> <li>If self-nominating, provide two 100-word statements of support from peers.</li> </ul>

Award	Requirements
Researcher/Research Team of the Year	<ul> <li>200-word statement defining the nature and significance of the research achievements, the importance of the research outputs in terms of originality and impact within the field, community and industry.</li> <li>List of Published Research Outputs and Citations across all ERA eligible categories since 2022.</li> <li>List of Research Income in Categories 1-4 since 2022</li> <li>Research Training: Higher Degree by Research (HDR) load and completions since 2022.</li> <li>Evidence of Research Impact: discipline, community, industry since 2022.</li> <li>If self-nominating, provide two 100-word statements of support from peers.</li> </ul>
Higher Degree by Research Supervisor of the Year	<ul> <li>Evidence of how the supervisor has supported their candidates to manage progress towards timely completion. 200 words</li> <li>Evidence of how the supervisor has supported the development of candidates' research design and methodological skills. 200 words</li> <li>Demonstrate how the supervisor has encouraged student engagement nationally and internationally. 200 words</li> <li>Evidence of the supervisor's ongoing passion, and commitment to supervision. 200 words</li> <li>Evidence of supporting recognition of HDR research (e.g., by publication, by professional organisations, research users in industry, community, prizes and awards, invitations to conferences)</li> <li>If self-nominating, provide two 100-word statements of support from peers/supervisors.</li> </ul>
Higher Degree by Research Thesis/Creative Work of the Year	<ul> <li>200-word statement defining the nature and significance of the contribution that the thesis or creative work has made to advancing knowledge in the field of study.</li> <li>Provide evidence of publication or other research outputs that have arisen from or relate to the thesis/creative work. 100 words</li> <li>Outline the evidence of research impact that the thesis/creative work has made on industry and/or community. 200 words</li> <li>Provide evidence of recognition of the research (e.g., by professional organisations, research users in industry, community, prizes and awards, invitations to conferences). 100 words</li> <li>If self-nominating, provide two 100-word statements of support from peers/supervisors.</li> </ul>
Research Excellence through Partnership	<ul> <li>200-word statement defining the origins, nature, development and significance of the research partnership.</li> <li>Provide a 400-word narrative that clearly outlines the research impact identifying the contribution the research has made beyond academia, including:         <ul> <li>who or what has benefitted from the results of the research (this should identify relevant research end-users, or beneficiaries from industry, the community, government, wider public etc.)</li> <li>the nature or type of impact and how the research made a social, economic, cultural, and/or environmental impact.</li> <li>the extent of the impact (with specific references to appropriate evidence)</li> <li>Provide a 100-word statement on how the partnership has been maintained over time.</li> <li>Provide a list of published research outputs and citations across all ERA eligible categories derived from the partnership since 2022.</li> <li>If self-nominating, provide two 100-word statements of support from peers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Award	Requirements
Teaching Scholar of the Year	<ul> <li>200-word statement defining the nature and significance of the contribution to research and teaching integration.</li> <li>Outline the exemplar teaching program or approach for consideration. 150 words</li> <li>Describe the innovative approaches to teaching and learning that have been applied and how students have utilised research to better enable learning outcomes to be achieved. 200 words</li> <li>Provide evidence of enhanced student experience that influences, motivates, and inspires students to engage with research that have been achieved from the teaching practices. 200 words</li> <li>If possible, provide evidence of publications on teaching developments and their influence on the practice of the wider community. Provide details of these publications, including citation data where appropriate.</li> <li>Include evidence of excellence in relation to the nominated teaching. This may include information related to measures of esteem, honours and award/prizes, and any other evaluations of the teaching practice, which are appropriate to demonstrating excellence. 200 words</li> <li>If self-nominating, provide two 100-word statements of support from peers.</li> </ul>

# Appendix 3. Awardees' report

## **Requirements for report following Award**

Award recipients are expected to submit a report detailing their use of their funds by 31 January 2026. This report should include the following relevant to the Award:

Award	Report requirements
Excellence as an Early Career Researcher	<ul> <li>How the award has assisted research and preparation of future grant applications.</li> <li>Details of any research outputs arising from work funded by the award.</li> <li>An acquittal of expenditure of the funds.</li> </ul>
First Nations Researcher of the Year	<ul> <li>How the award has assisted research and preparation of future grant applications.</li> <li>Details of any research outputs arising from work funded by the award.</li> <li>An acquittal of expenditure of the funds.</li> </ul>
Researcher/Research Team of the Year	<ul> <li>How the award has assisted research and preparation of future grant applications.</li> <li>Details of any research outputs arising from work funded by the award.</li> <li>An acquittal of expenditure of the funds.</li> </ul>
Higher Degree by Research Supervisor of the Year	<ul> <li>How the award has assisted research or supervision activity.</li> <li>Details of any outputs arising from work funded by the award.</li> <li>An acquittal of expenditure of the funds.</li> </ul>
Higher Degree by Research Thesis / Creative Work of the Year	<ul> <li>How the award has assisted future research or professional activity.</li> <li>Details of any outputs arising from work funded by the award.</li> <li>An acquittal of expenditure of the funds.</li> </ul>
Research Excellence through Partnership	<ul> <li>How the award has assisted research and preparation of future grant applications.</li> <li>Details of any research outputs arising from work funded by the award.</li> <li>An acquittal of expenditure of the funds.</li> </ul>
Teaching Scholar of the Year	<ul> <li>How the award has assisted their teaching activity.</li> <li>Details of any outputs arising from work funded by the award.</li> <li>An acquittal of expenditure of the funds.</li> </ul>

Award recipients may also be asked to provide information on progress / usage of the funds and a photograph to support promotion of their research and these Awards.