

PhD Alumni Excellence Recognition Scheme – Applicant Guidance

Overview

This scheme recognises outstanding accomplishments by recent PhD graduates from the School of Psychology at the University of Nottingham.

This initiative aims to:

- Celebrate research excellence and impact.
- Promote a positive research culture.
- Provide role models and networking opportunities for current PGRs.
- Provide an opportunity for staff to continue to learn about the research impact of UoN supervision and the career trajectory of former students.

Assessment follows the University of Nottingham principles for the responsible use of research metrics and a narrative-led assessment approach.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the scheme, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- PhD completed within the last five years, calculated from the data of the viva voce examination.
- This five-year period excludes any formally documented periods of parental leave, sick leave, or similar. Where appropriate, applicants should briefly indicate the dates and nature of such leave so that the panel can apply the eligibility window appropriately.
- Applicants may be based in any sector (academic, industry, clinical, non-profit) and may nominate themselves or be nominated by others.

How Your Application Will Be Assessed

Your 750-word statement will be evaluated across three categories: Research Excellence (40%), Impact (40%), Research Culture (20%), using a 0–7 scale. Narrative evidence is primary; indicators may be used only to support claims.

1. Research Excellence (40%)

Describe originality, rigour, contribution to knowledge, theory or methodology. Provide specific examples of your most important research achievements.

Examples: Invited talks; competitive fellowships; grants; article-level metrics (citations, field-weighted citation index); evidence of how your research has advanced the field.

2. Impact (40%)

Impact may be academic, disciplinary, methodological or societal. Explain how your work has been used, reused or has influenced others. Where appropriate, provide DOIs, dataset links or policy citations in the Permitted Indicators section.

Examples: External groups using dataset/method; policy citations; evidence of public engagement.

3. Contributions to Research Culture (20%)

Describe mentoring, open research, community-building, EDI activities, public engagement, or initiatives improving open science practices and research integrity.

Examples: Mentoring PGRs or supporting diversity in research; running journal clubs, reproducibility; open-research training; contribution to EDI initiatives.

Permitted Indicators (Optional)

You may include up to five optional indicators to support your narrative. If you choose to include indicators, the following sources might help: Digital Object Identified (DOI) of output (including papers) with indicator information, such as a) Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI), accessible through Scopus; b) Category Normalised Citation Impact (CNCI), accessible through Web of Science; c) Raw citation counts (Google Scholar); Evidence of dataset or software reuse (number of citations or downloads from relevant platforms); Policy citations (citations or a narrative description); Evidence of open practices (DOI or links to repositories/pre-registration), etc. Please note that Journal Impact Factors, h-index and journal rankings are not permitted.

Context Statement (Optional)

You may explain contextual factors such as part-time status, caring responsibilities, field norms, or other circumstances relevant to assessment.

PGR Conference Keynote

As part of the PhD Alumni Excellence Recognition Scheme, one eligible awardee will be invited to deliver a keynote presentation at the forthcoming School of Psychology PGR Conference, which will take place on 13th May 2026. This keynote is an opportunity for an alumnus to share their research journey, provide career advice, and engage with current postgraduate researchers. The PGR Committee has agreed to provide up to £150 in travel support to facilitate attendance.

We ask all applicants to indicate their availability for this date and, where possible, to keep their diaries free. You may also choose to provide a tentative title or topic for your keynote talk. This does not need to be final and can be refined later in consultation with the PGR Conference organisers.

Timeline

- Deadline for applications: 2 March 2026
- Panel decisions communicated: 25 March 2026
- School of Psychology PGR Conference: 13 May 2026