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**PDC Postdoc Awards**

**Nomination Form**

**MHLS Faculty 2025**

The PDC Postdoc Awards aim to recognise the contributions of postdocs to the University. These awards particularly reward those who excel in what they do, those who “go the extra-mile” in their research, in their contribution to public engagement and the life of the University, as well as in the provision of support for their group, colleagues and School.

We encourage all staff to consider postdocs who have made a difference in these categories and to nominate them.

Although self-nominations are possible, we encourage postdocs who think they should be nominated to ask a colleague to nominate them (this person can be the postdoc’s PI, a postdoc or any other QUB staff member). Nominations by PhD candidates are authorised for the Support category only.

If required, nominators may ask the postdoc they want to nominate for details of the activities they have undertaken.

Note: to avoid potential bias, the selection committee is only provided with the abstract and list of achievements submitted by nominators. Other information collected via this form, including the name of the nominator (or self-nomination status) are not communicated to the panel.

For more information and to see last year’s nominees and winners, please visit the [PDC Postdoc Awards page](https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/pdc/Recognition/PostdocAwards/) on the Postdoctoral Development Centre’s website.

# **Award categories**

* **Research category**

This award recognises research and impact activities. It can, for example relate to contributions to the progression of projects (creative approaches and problem solving, development of methodologies and tools…), the generation of new knowledge and quality outputs (publication of papers, patents, books, policy reports, code/software, open access datasets…), invited presentations at international conferences and other research dissemination activities to the research and innovation community, obtaining of prizes and similar marks of esteem, as well as the generation of new research ideas and proposals (for external funding etc.). This category also rewards the establishment and management of collaborations and partnerships with academia and other sectors, contributions to impact and societal benefit (including influence on policy and how public or private bodies function, innovation and commercialisation, entrepreneurship/spin-out companies, development of new patent applications and products, consultancy…), as well as external engagement with the public, patients or other stakeholders for research purposes (e.g. PPI and research co-creation and consultation).

*Note: research dissemination to the public and media should not be included in this category and should be included in the ‘Citizenship and Outreach’ category.*

* **Citizenship and Outreach category**

This category recognises postdoc involvement in QUB business and in the wider research and innovation sector through, for example: dissemination of research to non-specialist audiences (public talks, festivals, events, social media, dissemination via mainstream media or blogs, vlogs…), student recruitment and inspiring young people (engagement with schools, university open days, student recruitment events, widening participation activities…), committee work and representation, the organisation of research events (e.g. conferences, symposia, courses…), contributions to a positive research culture (championing of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, research integrity, open access, supporting local student symposia and events…), contributions to a positive working environment (organisation of networking and social events…) and other marks of administrative leadership. Contributions to national, international, or field-specific societies, committees, and boards are also relevant to this category, as well as refereeing activities (editing, reviewing papers and proposals etc.).

Note: this award rewards public engagement relating to the dissemination of research, not the development of collaborations with external partners such as industrial partners, engagement with innovation and commercialisation, as well as PPI embedded within the research project; these activities are rewarded as part of the ‘Research’ category.

* **Support category**

This award recognises postdoc involvement in the supervision, training and mentoring of students and fellow staff members (through mentoring programmes, career events, workshops, summer schools), as well as teaching. Contributions to the functioning of the team/group (organisation of team building activities or away days, laboratory rotas, team Health and Safety, regular team meetings or journal clubs…) and coordination of research delivery (e.g. project and collaboration management, budget management) are also included in this category.

## **Nomination rules and procedures**

**Who can be nominated?**

* Each nomination must be for an individual postdoc
* Nominees should be current postdocs (Research Assistants with a PhD, Research Fellows, Senior Research Fellows, holders of an early-career postdoctoral fellowship, or similar AC1 to AC3 Research staff with a PhD) from the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (for postdocs from other Faculties, use either the EPS or AHSS nomination form). PhD candidates are not eligible.
* Vice-Chancellor Fellows, Illuminate Fellows or holders of category C or D fully independent fellowships ([see criteria defining fellowship categories](https://qubstudentcloud.sharepoint.com/sites/int-re/SitePages/Fellowships.aspx#queen%E2%80%99s-supports-for-fellows-and-new-investigators)) are not eligible.
* Postdocs who won one of the postdoc awards the previous year cannot be nominated in the same category the following year ([see previous winners on the website](https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/pdc/Recognition/PostdocAwards/Archive/)).

**Who can nominate?**

* Any Queen’s staff member (PI, Postdoc, technical staff, administration staff…) can nominate a maximum of one postdoc per category. Use separate forms for each award.
* PhD candidates can nominate postdocs in the Support category only.
* Postdocs can self-nominate, but only in one category.
* If several people wish to nominate the same person, they should write one nomination together (and list all their names as ‘nominators’), for the consideration of the judges' time. Judges will focus on the content of the nominations and not the number received. Separate individuals should not submit the same copied/pasted nomination form.

**What should you include in your nomination?**

* The nomination should include an abstract summarising your main reasons for nominating the postdoc and a list of maximum 10 ranked achievements supporting your nomination (to be provided on this form).
* The activities which qualify must have been carried out (or be planned) within the academic year, between September 2024 and August 2025 (inclusive).
* As a signatory of [DORA](https://sfdora.org/) (the Declaration On Research Assessment), we do not permit the use of narrow metrics like Impact Factors in the nominations, and require that the quality of the achievements listed is provided via the contextualisation of their significance and impact instead.
* The achievements supporting the nomination should include specific facts and examples, describing what the contribution of the individual to the initiative was (for example taking inspiration from the [CRediT taxonomy](https://credit.niso.org/)), as well as the impact it had; this may be an impact on the progress of their research, on their team or another group of colleagues, on their field, on the development of another individual, on local culture, on society, on the economy etc.
* Ensure the achievements you provide are relevant to the category you have chosen and took place within the eligible timeframe. The category descriptions above indicate the type of eligible achievements. Note that not all elements listed are required and the list is not exhaustive. Facts that do not align with the category or are outside of the timeframe won’t be considered by the panel (for example, do not include papers published for the citizenship category).
* Rank the achievements, starting with the one you consider to be most important.
* If relevant, you can highlight some specific circumstances that you feel the panel should be aware of at the end of your nomination, for example, if the individual you are nominating was on leave for part of the eligible timeframe or works part-time.

**How should you submit your nomination?**

* **Send this completed** **form as** **a** **word document** (not a PDF which complicates the anonymisation process for PDC staff) to pdc@qub.ac.uk, with the Subject: MHLS Postdoc Awards, **by Monday 30 June at 11:59**.
* The PDC will acknowledge receipt of your nomination. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within two working days, please get in touch to ensure your email was received.

**Outcome:**

* Each nomination will be evaluated by a panel including the Faculty Dean of Research or a nominee, the PDC Officer or Research Culture Manager, a faculty academic (e.g. PROG Academic Representative) and a member of staff within the Research and Enterprise Directorate working with the faculty.
* If a substantial number of nominations are received within one category, the panel may decide to also award a reasonable number of ‘highly commended’ mentions in addition to selecting a winner. Winners will receive a £150 voucher.
* Winners will be announced at the Postdoc Showcase which is scheduled to take place on Friday 26September at Queen’s University Belfast, in celebration of National Postdoc Appreciation Week (15 - 19 September 2025).
* The results will be displayed on the [PDC Postdoc Awards’ webpage](https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/pdc/Recognition/PostdocAwards/) and shared on the [PDC X account (@QUBpostdoc)](https://twitter.com/QUBPostdoc).

**Award category:** Choose an item.

**Your details (the person submitting this nomination):**

**Name** (forename + surname): Click or tap here to enter text.

**QUB Email:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Position:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**School/Centre** (if you are from EPS or AHSS, please write after the box): Choose an item.

If this nomination comes from a group of people, please provide the names and email addresses of the additional nominators below:

Click or tap here to enter text.

**The nominee (the postdoc you are nominating):**

**This is a self-nomination** (if yes, you do not need to complete the next 4 fields): Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**Name** (forename + surname): Click or tap here to enter text.

**QUB Email:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**School/Centre** (if nominee is from EPS or AHSS, you must use the [correct Faculty form](https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/pdc/Recognition/PostdocAwards/)): Choose an item.

*Note: only the abstract and table below will be communicated to the judging panel; the information provided above will not be made available to the panel and is for administrative purposes only.*

*By submitting this form, you certify that the information is accurate and reflects the genuine contributions of the postdoc.*

*Unless otherwise specified, the PDC will share your nomination with the nominee. Your words play a crucial role in making them feel valued and appreciated. If you would prefer not to share your nomination with the postdoc, please check the box below.*

[ ]  I **do not** want the postdoc I am nominating to receive a copy of this nomination.

**Abstract: Please summarise the reasons for your nomination in a maximum of 200 words** **(words beyond this count will be deleted before the nomination is shared with the panel), including the principal accomplishments and your personal view on the postdoc's performance in relation to the chosen category. This abstract may be published on the awards’ website. If this is a self-nomination, please write as the third person.**

**Please list the main achievements which support the nomination *(maximum 10),* ranked from the most to the least important in your opinion. Please be factual and concise** ***(maximum 500 words across all cells of the table; words beyond this count will be deleted before the nomination is shared with the panel)* describing the personal contribution of the postdoc and when the achievement(s) took place, as well as the impact of this contribution. Please ensure it relates to the chosen award category. If this is a self-nomination, please write as the third person.**

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| **Achievement/initiative, including a description of the nominee’s contribution** | **Outcome, significance and impact of the nominee’s contribution** |
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