

NWU Researcher Awards Scheme

Department of Research Support

An Institutional Researcher awards scheme as outlined in the Institutional Strategy for Research and Innovation was approved in 2007. The purpose of this document is to provide the details in relation to the Scheme. The scheme will be based solely on outstanding research performance in a specific reporting year. Annual revision of scores/weights will take place where necessary.

1 Most Productive Researcher of the Year awards

The following categories have been approved:

- Most Productive Researcher of the Year;
- Most Productive Junior Researcher of the Year;
- Most Productive Research Entity of the Year;

1.1 Definitions

For this section, also refer to the various categories of employment as defined by HR; see

<https://tdrpl-lnx1.nwu.ac.za/node/17463>.

Staff member: A person who is employed fulltime or part-time, either permanent, on a fixed term contract or a temporary contract (excluding *ad hoc* or extraordinary appointments) by the NWU, who is registered on the HR system and for whom a fixed number of working hours is specified. This does NOT include student assistants, extraordinary appointments or *ad hoc* appointments.

Research publication: A publication that qualifies for subsidy, as defined in the DHET policy “Policy and Procedures for measurement of research output of public higher education institutions”.

Primary member: A staff member of the NWU as defined above, spending most of his/her research time working in the entity.

Secondary member: All other participants affiliated in some way to the NWU, i.e. Students, Post-docs, Extraordinary appointments or *ad hoc* appointments.

1.2 Criteria

- Any **fulltime** staff member of NWU may be nominated.
- Most Productive Junior Researcher of the year must be 35 years of age or younger.
- Most Productive Research Entity of the Year must be a formally approved NWU entity.
- The criteria used is divided into the following broad categories (refer to Section 2 below):
 - Research publications (journal papers; books; book chapter and conference proceeding);
 - Postgraduate qualifications awarded to students;
 - Articles published in national and international journals (non-accredited and peer reviewed journals);
 - Presentations made to national and international conferences;
 - Creative outputs;
 - Any significant research awards;
 - External research funding received.

1.3 Procedure

- The nominator completes the relevant nomination form, clearly indicating the category of the nomination. The points will be calculated in the Research Support office.
- A staff member with the highest points will be awarded with the Most Productive Researcher of the Year trophy at the annual research function.
- A staff member of 35 years of age (or younger) with the highest points will be awarded the Most Productive Junior Researcher of the year trophy at the annual research function.
- The Research Entity with the highest points, weighted by the total unit value of the entity (See section 2 below) will be awarded the Most Productive Research Entity of the year trophy at the annual research function.
- Each faculty can submit **one nomination per category** using the guidelines in section 2 below.
- The DVC: Research and Innovation will convene an adjudication panel at his/her discretion to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the nominations received from faculties.

2 Guidelines for Most Productive Researcher/Entity of the Year awards

2.1 Calculating the TOTAL MEMBER UNIT VALUE OF ENTITY

A list of all primary and secondary participants, with their unit values must be submitted with the application. The sum of the individual unit values will be the total member unit value of the entity. The **unit value** is defined as the percentage of his/her time that a participant spends working in the entity. To calculate the unit value for an individual, proceed as follows:

For **staff members as defined in Section 1.1** above, i.e. for **primary members**: For each person in this category, there will be a Task Agreement specifying the proportion of time to be spent (a number between 0 and 1) working in the entity. This number is used as the unit value for the person. For instance, a research professor appointed fulltime in the entity will have a unit value of 1. An academic spending 60% of his/her time teaching and 40% on research in the entity will have a unit value of 0.4.

For **secondary members**:

- **Students**: If the student is registered fulltime, the unit value is 1. The unit value of a part-time student is 0.5.
- **Postdoctoral fellows**: Unit value = 1.
- **Extraordinary appointments**: In this case, the relevant research director must supply an estimate of the proportion of total time spent by the participant.
- **Ad hoc appointments**: The **Total hours worked** filled in on the claim form for ad hoc payments, divided by 1600.

2.2 Research publications

As defined above, these are publications that qualifies for subsidy, as defined in the DHET policy "Policy and Procedures for measurement of research output of public higher education institutions". It includes journal papers, books, book chapters and conference proceedings.

This section will be completed by the Research Support Office from the InfoEd system.

2.2.1 Weight (Weighted by the number of Authors):

- Journal articles: 1 unit = 10
- Chapters in books: 1 unit = 10
- Books: 1 unit = 100
- Conference proceedings: 1 unit = 5

2.3 Postgraduate qualifications awarded to students

The involvement of a staff member as supervisor of a Masters' and/or Doctoral student at NWU if the degree was **awarded** during the reporting year.

2.3.1 Weight (In all cases weighted by the number of Supervisors):

- Supervisor of Doctoral degree **awarded** in reporting year = 20
- Supervisor of Research Masters' degree **awarded** in reporting year = 10
- Supervisor of the research component of a Structured Masters' degree **awarded** in reporting year = 6

2.4 Articles published in national and international journals (non-subsidisable BUT peer reviewed journals)

Research articles for authors that are not subsidised by the DHET, whereby proof of peer review have been submitted.

2.4.1 Weight (Weighted by the number of Authors):

- Research article in national or international journal: 1 unit = 5
- Chapters in books (excluding study material - only research): 1 unit = 5
- Book (excluding study material - only research): 1 unit= 50

2.5 Presentations made to national and international conferences

- Papers published in Conference Proceedings, and listed in section 2.2.1 above, may not be claimed again under this section.
- Presentations made at an international conference (substantial international participation).
- Presentations made at a national conference (in South Africa or abroad) with a limited or no international participation.
- An invited plenary/keynote speaker as indicated in the conference programme.
- Proof of presentation in the form of e.g. a Conference Program must be submitted.

2.5.1 Weight (In all cases weighted by the number of Authors of the paper):

- International paper presented as keynote/plenary speaker: 1 unit = 20
- International paper presented: 1 unit =10
- National paper presented as keynote/plenary speaker: 1 unit = 10
- National paper presented: 1 unit = 5

2.6 Creative output

Peer reviewed (proof to be provided) creative performances or exhibitions, as specified in the policy for Recognition of Creative Outputs.

2.6.1 Weight:

- Peer reviewed creative performance/exhibitions = 10

2.7 Research awards

Any recognised National and International research awards (eg NRF, ASSAf, NSTF etc) in the reporting year should be provided and evaluated by the faculty (maximum of 25 points)

2.8 External Research funding

Any significant international funding as principal investigator (PI) (maximum of 25 points). The points should be determined depending on the number of participating members (eg consortium funding). The PI funding should exceed R100 000 for the reporting year.

Any significant national funding as principal investigator (PI) (maximum of 15 points). The points should be determined depending on the number of participating members (eg Innovation fund). The PI funding should exceed R100 000 for the reporting year.