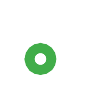


AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN DOCTORAL SUPERVISION

-

UCD DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES



UCD Graduate Studies

Award for Excellence in Doctoral Supervision

The Dean of Graduate Studies sponsors the biennial *Award for Excellence in Doctoral Supervision* in recognition of excellence in research supervisory practice by a UCD academic faculty member. Next call for the Dean's Award is planned for the 2026-27 academic year.

Nomination Process: Student Nomination

UCD doctoral students are invited to nominate their research supervisor for the *Award for Excellence in Doctoral Supervision*. The application process involves two stages. **Stage 1** will require two doctoral student proposers to nominate the research supervisor and **Stage 2** will require a written personal statement from the nominated supervisor and any supporting information on their supervisory record. This information will be requested by UCD Graduate Studies following receipt of the research students’ nomination.

**Stage 1 Requirements** - a doctoral supervisor i) must be nominated by two of their research students who have completed their Stage Transfer Assessment. Both students may be currently registered on a PhD programme **OR** one of the students may have completed their PhD under the supervisor in question. ***Please tick the box to demonstrate compliance with requirement***

ii) The supervisor must also have had at least one doctoral student through to completion. ***Please tick the box to demonstrate compliance with requirement***

**Stage 2 Requirements -** the nominated supervisor will be invited by Graduate Studies to complete a written statement of supervisory practice.

The application in its entirety will then be reviewed by a panel of experienced adjudicators.

\**Please do not alter the format, sequence or sections of the application form when completing.*

*\*\*Please note that previous recipients of the Dean's Award for Excellence in Doctoral Supervision are not eligible to apply for the award in the following call.*

Financial component of award

**The award includes €3,000,** for the purpose of supporting the recipient’s research and career development and will be paid into the **recipient’s school / unit cost centre.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Timeline | | |
| **Key Dates - Dean’s Award Call 2025** | | |
| **Stage** | **Applications** | **Date** |
| Stage 1 | Nominations open for doctoral  students | Mon 17th February - Mon 24th March |
| Stage 2 | Supervisory Nominees invited  to complete application | Mon 7th April – Mon 28th April |
| Stage 2 | Notification of results | May 2025 |

Nominee Details:

Nominations may be submitted either by (i) two current doctoral students **or** (ii) one currently registered

doctoral research student and a recently graduated doctoral student of the nominee.

2. Proposers' Details

**1. Stage 1** - Nomination by Doctoral Students

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Research Supervisor being nominated |  |
| Position |  |
| School |  |
| Email of nominee |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Current Doctoral Student 1** | **Current Doctoral Student 2**  **or Graduated Doctoral Student** |
| Proposer’s Name |  |  |
| UCD student number |  |  |
| School |  |  |
| Proposer’s contact email |  |  |
| PhD start date |  |  |
| PhD completion date/proposed submission date |  |  |
| Signature |  |  |

3. Nomination Statements

Proposers are required to provide a joint statement outlining why they believe their research Supervisor

(or former supervisor) merits a *UCD Dean of Graduate Studies Award for Excellence in Doctoral Supervision.*

**3.1) Please describe the contribution of the nominee to research supervision and relate it to the award**

**criteria as outlined below (max 250 words per criterion). A nominated supervisor must demonstrate ability in**

**at least 4 of these areas.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A. An interest in and enthusiasm for, supervising and supporting doctoral researchers. |  |
| B. Effective support of research and doctoral research students towards timely completion of their thesis. |  |
| C. Effective feedback and critical advising on publishing and presentation of supervisee’s work. |  |
| D. Research environment integration of postgraduate researchers into the research community. |  |
| E. Support for students’ transferable skills training and professional development (e.g. conference presentation, teaching experience, other professional experience). |  |
| F. A pioneering approach to supervision: what has the nominee done above and beyond that which is expected of any good supervisor? |  |
| G. Challenge students intellectually and help them to make substantial contributions to their academic field. |  |
| H. Provide additional support and facilities to give greater scope to their students’ research. |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Example 1 |  |
| Example 2 |  |
| Example 3 |  |

**3.2) Please give details of up to 3 specific examples of how the nominee encourages and supports the**

**continued development of research students (max 250 words per example).**

**4. Stage 2:** Nominee’s Written Statement - Criteria

**SUPERVISION STATEMENT** The following headings are a guide to areas that should be addressed by the nominated supervisor in their application and will be used by the judging panel. Information regarding doctoral student completion times, employment destinations and specific achievements is strongly encouraged for inclusion. Applicants should summarise the specific attributes that make their supervisory contribution distinctive in terms of achieving excellence and exceeding normal practice. Applicants should use the appropriate headings provided and formatting to make a case for outstanding supervision, referring to comments from students and other supporting material.

**4.1 Supervision of doctoral research students:**

A. **Communication and monitoring progress**; Strategies and achievements in relevant practices that may include: effective induction processes; ensuring both parties have a clear understanding and agreement of expectations and roles; maintaining regular and meaningful contact; providing timely and constructive feedback on all aspects of performance; strategies to monitor progress and performance and ensure research students are meeting standards required for the degree and will be able to achieve timely completion.

B. **Mentorship and career development**; Strategies and achievements in relevant practices that may include: assisting candidates to identify and meet career goals; assisting candidates to integrate into the research community and relevant disciplinary and professional groups through networking, publications, conference attendance and applying for appropriate grants and awards.

C. **Responding to the needs of candidates**; Achievements in relevant practices which may include: identifying and helping to address candidate’s individual circumstances (international, cultural, family, financial); identifying and assisting candidates with personal, technical or academic problems; negotiating and resolving conflict or problems within the working relationship.

D. **Training and skills development strategies for supporting the development of research skills relevant to the discipline**; identifying and addressing skills deficiencies and developing skills required at various stages of candidature; supporting the development of written and oral communication skills.

**4.2 Scholarship and leadership in supervision:**

E. **Scholarship and professional development**; Strategies for managing a professional and systematic approach to the development of the applicant’s effectiveness as a supervisor, including reflective evaluation and participation in professional development activities, attendance at workshops, training activities and publications/materials.

F. **Leadership in supervisory practice**; Professional contributions to scholarship, policy development and best practice in supervision, including mentoring of new staff, publications/other outputs, invitations to speak on supervision, and what the applicant has achieved/contributed through key appointments in recognition of their leadership and track record in supervision.

Written Statement by Nominee of Research Supervisory Practice relating to criteria above (max 250 words per section):

* 1. **Supervision of doctoral research students:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Communication and monitoring progress |  |
| 1. Mentorship and career development |  |
| 1. Responding to the needs of candidates |  |
| 1. Training and skills development strategies |  |

# Scholarship and leadership in supervision:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Scholarship and professional development |  |
| Leadership in supervisory practice |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Nominee's Signature |  | Date: |  |

**5. Stage 2:** Nominee’s Written Statement

Logo

Description automatically generated

**UCD Graduate Studies**

[www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies)