

## **MDC Excellence Awards 2023-2024**

### **1. Introduction**

The annual Manchester Doctoral College (MDC) Excellence Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of our postgraduate researchers and postgraduate research supervisors. Awards for 2023/2024 will be given in six categories:

- PGR of the Year (President's Distinguished Achievement Award)
- Best Outstanding Research Contribution
- Best Contribution to PGR Environment
- Best Contribution to Society – Local Community and Research Impact
- Best Contribution to Internationalisation
- Supervisor of the Year

#### **1.1 PGR of the Year (President's Distinguished Achievement Award) (one award per Faculty)**

##### **Deadline for nominations – 9th January 2024**

The nominee should be an outstanding **postgraduate researcher** who has excelled in some significant manner, for example after the presentation of a thesis, based on the recommendation and judgment of the external examiner; or has had a major research achievement during a PGR programme – e.g. high quality journal publications; research spin off, etc.

#### **1.2 MDC Postgraduate Researcher Awards**

##### **Deadline for nominations – 14th May 2024**

##### **1.2.1 Best Outstanding Research Contribution (one award per Faculty)**

The Best Outstanding Output award recognises research publications of the highest quality and acknowledges the continuing importance of high-quality research to the University.

##### **1.2.2 Best Contribution to PGR Environment (one award per Faculty)**

The Best Contribution to PGR Environment award recognises outstanding achievement/contribution of an individual or team towards the enhancement of the postgraduate environment. One overall award will be made to an individual or team who has/have made a positive impact, demonstrated innovation and creativity in their actions, and been an inspirational role model to other postgraduate researchers or have been part of an initiative which positively impacts PGR community. Examples of this include organising events, which bring together the postgraduate community; identifying an area of development within the postgraduate community and providing a solution to this.

##### **1.2.3 Best Contribution to Society – Local Community (one award per Faculty)**

The Best Contribution to Society (Local Community) award recognises outstanding the achievement or contribution of an individual that has offered their time and energy to make a difference to the social and economic well-being of our local communities.

##### **1.2.4 Best Contribution to Society – Research Impact (one award per Faculty)**

The Best Contribution to Society (Research Impact) award recognises outstanding the achievement or contribution of an individual whose research has had a positive impact in terms of improvements to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life.

### **1.2.5 Best Contribution to Internationalisation (one award per Faculty)**

The Best Contribution to Internationalisation award will be made to a postgraduate researchers who, in the opinion of the MDC Panel, encapsulates the spirit of internationalisation at Manchester. Examples of this include a postgraduate researcher that has demonstrated their ability to work internationally and be an exemplar global citizen; a postgraduate researcher that had driven forward an initiative to enhance the international student experience at Manchester.

### **1.3 Supervisor of the Year (one award per Faculty)**

#### **Deadline for nominations – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

The nominee should be an individual who has created the most supportive, stimulating, and inspirational research environment for doctoral students. A post doctorate who has demonstrated supervisory support may be nominated under this category.

### **1.4 MDC Celebrating and Sharing Success**

MDC seek to capture PGR stories of success throughout the year and to formally recognise these achievements. All Departments/Schools/Faculties are encouraged to make the MDC aware of any outstanding PGR achievements and a letter congratulating the postgraduate researcher will then be sent from the MDC Director and appropriate Associate Dean for Postgraduate Research.

## **2. Criteria for Postgraduate Researcher Award Nominations**

*(Includes PGR Student of the Year and MDC Postgraduate Research Student Awards)*

At the time of being nominated for an award<sup>1</sup>, nominees must be registered for a postgraduate research degree at the University of Manchester, be under examination for a postgraduate research degree at the University of Manchester or have completed their doctoral degree within the past twelve months.<sup>2</sup>

- a) **All nominations MUST be accompanied by a minimum of two statements of support, and no more than four, from either the nominee's peers or relevant members of academic or PSS/Library/CIS' staff. If these statements are not included the nomination will not be considered.**

**Wherever relevant, supporting statements should include at least one from a student to ensure the student voice is represented in the nominations.**

**As part of the nomination form, nominators are required to provide a very brief summary of the nominee's achievements i.e. no longer than 120 words.**

If the nomination is successful these 120 words will be used to form the basis of the citation at the awards ceremony. You are asked therefore to be clear, concise and mindful of the diverse range of people who will be in the audience at this event, particularly when constructing the shorter statement. Please do not use quotes from individuals within this summary.

- b) Postgraduate researchers can be nominated for multiple awards, but a separate **MDC Postgraduate Excellence Research Award Nomination Form** must be completed for each award.

## **3. Criteria for Supervisor of the Year Award Nominations**

The qualities Departments, Schools, Faculties and the MDC will be looking for in candidates include:

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<sup>1</sup> The date of nomination is deemed as the date on which the Department/School submits a nomination to the Faculty for consideration

<sup>2</sup> The completion date of their doctoral degree refers to the completion date on Campus Solutions.

- a) Evidence of outstanding results of their supervision over a number of years: have postgraduate researchers from a range of backgrounds been encouraged to pursue a doctorate? What have they gone on to achieve?
- b) A pioneering approach to supervision: what has the individual done above and beyond that which is expected of any good supervision? What innovative approaches to problem solving and motivating postgraduate researchers can be evidenced?
- c) A demonstrable commitment to supporting the personal, professional and career development of PGRs supervised, including evidence of proactive identification of tailored training and development needs reflecting the needs and strengths of individual PGRs
- d) Demonstrable enthusiasm for the role and going the extra mile to help postgraduate researchers navigate through difficulties, academic or otherwise
- e) Challenging postgraduate researchers intellectually and helping them to make substantial contributions to their academic field
- f) Providing additional support and facilities to give greater scope to their research
- g) Providing supervision to an exceptional number of candidates over time.
- h) Post-doctorates may also be nominated under this category if they can demonstrate the above qualities.

## Timeline

Sept 2023	Deborah sends out all her DAA call documentation Sept (inc the dates for the DAA award nomination deadline)
9th Jan 2024	Deadline for faculties to submit one nomination each to RDRD for PGR DAA
17th Jan 2024	3 faculty PGR DAA nomination presented to MDC to agree final nomination
Feb 2024	Deadline for RDRD to confirm with Deborah the MDC-agreed PGR DAA
April 2024	Awards and honours group confirms the DAA winners
14th May 2024	Deadline for Faculties to send nominations for all other MDC awards to RDRD
22nd May 2024	Faculty MDC award nominations presented to MDC to agree final 'winners'
June 2024	Deadline for UoM submission to Times Higher for supervisor of the year usually in June but date not published yet (MDC to decide if winner of UoM supervisor of the year should be put forward)
June/July 2024	President's DAA presentation ceremony
12th June 2024	MDC Excellence Awards ceremony after the Postgraduate Summer Research Showcase

## Further Information

**All nominations must be made via the Faculty. Nominations made directly to MDC will not be considered.** For further information please contact Georgina Hall ([georgina.hall-2@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:georgina.hall-2@manchester.ac.uk)).