2020 Research Excellence Awards

Guidelines for application and nomination

These guidelines are intended to provide additional information to help those wishing to nominate or apply for any of the Research Excellence Awards.

Submissions relating to any research in the areas of optometry, optics and vision science are welcome. The Awards Panel are looking for examples of contributions to the evidence base for optometry, but with a broad view on what this evidence base consists of.

Awards are made with the primary focus on the quality and impact of the research, rather than on the scope or scale of a project. Although information about previous Award winners is available on the College’s website, this is only a guide. If in doubt, we would encourage those interested to apply and/or nominate, or to contact us for more information or an informal discussion about the criteria.

Although the criteria include time limits, extenuating circumstances will be considered.

The deadline for nominations/applications for all Awards is Monday 13 July 2020.

More information about each of the Awards available this year is below.

Name: The Neil Charman Medal for Research
Summary: For outstanding research, this Award is given annually. Recipients can apply or be nominated by their peers. The Medal is to honour any research being undertaken at a level above postgraduate, and comes with a £1,000 bursary.
Criteria: Nominees/applicants must be College Members, although they can be nominated by non-members, and the research must have been published within the last three years.

Name: The Philip Cole Prize
Summary: For outstanding practice-based research, this Prize is awarded annually and comes with a £500 bursary. Recipients can apply or be nominated by their peers. The Prize is to honour the important contribution that practising optometrists continue to make to the optometric evidence base.
Criteria: Nominees/applicants must be College Members, although they can be nominated by non-members, the research must have been published within the last five years and nominees/applicants must have been practising as an optometrist during the course of the research project.

Name: The George Giles Postgraduate Research Prize
Summary: For outstanding postgraduate research, this Prize is awarded annually and comes with a £500 bursary. Recipients can apply or be nominated by their peers. We welcome nominations or applications from all PhD or Masters research projects.
Criteria: Nominees/applicants must be College Members, although they can be nominated by non-members, and the research must have been published within the last three years.

Additional criteria

The following also apply to all of the Awards:

- Members of the College's Research Committee are not eligible to apply or be nominated for an Award, although they may nominate someone else for an Award.