



PAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Office of the Deputy
Vice-Chancellor:
Research, Innovation
and Partnerships

NUST ANNUAL RESEARCH AWARDS CRITERIA



1. RATIONALE

The University Annual Researcher Awards serve to recognize and celebrate excellence in research, innovation, and scholarly achievements within the university. To ensure a fair and comprehensive evaluation of contributions, it is essential to establish clear criteria that align with the institution's goals of fostering impactful research, promoting innovation, and advancing knowledge. Below is the rationale for the criteria commonly used in such awards:

1.1. Research Output and Impact

Rationale: The quantity and quality of research output, such as peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, and patents, are core indicators of a researcher's contribution to their field. This criterion recognizes researchers who have made significant contributions through original, high-quality research that advances knowledge and addresses critical global or local challenges.

Key Metrics:

- Number and quality of publications (journal impact factor, citation count, h-index).
- Patents filed or granted.
- Research projects completed or ongoing.

1.2. Innovation and Technology Transfer

Rationale: This criterion emphasizes the importance of turning research into practical solutions that benefit society. Innovation and technology transfer contribute to societal development, economic growth, and the university's reputation as a hub for innovation. Recognizing efforts in commercialization, patenting, or creating new products or services highlights the role of research in solving real-world problems.

Key Metrics:

- Patents, licenses, or commercialization of research outputs.
- Startups or spin-off companies based on university research.
- Industry partnerships or research that directly contributes to innovation.



1.3. Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Rationale: Complex global challenges require interdisciplinary solutions. Researchers who collaborate across disciplines bring diverse perspectives and expertise together to address multifaceted issues. This criterion rewards those who engage in collaborative research that crosses disciplinary boundaries, enhancing the scope and impact of their work.

Key Metrics:

- Number and quality of interdisciplinary projects.
- Collaborative publications or projects with other departments, institutions, or sectors.
- Cross-department or cross-sectoral research initiatives.

1.4. Research Funding and Grants

Rationale: Securing competitive research funding demonstrates a researcher's ability to attract resources and support for their work, which is often a testament to the quality and relevance of their research. Researchers who consistently secure grants contribute to the university's financial sustainability and research capacity.

Key Metrics:

- Amount and type of funding secured (national, international, private).
- Number of research grants awarded.
- Leadership in managing large-scale research programs or projects.

1.5. Societal and Policy Impact

Rationale: Research that influences policy, benefits communities, or contributes to societal well-being is crucial for addressing local, regional, or global challenges. This criterion rewards researchers whose work has had a demonstrable impact on policy development, social innovation, or public discourse, ensuring that research contributes to societal progress.

Key Metrics:

- Research that influences public policy, legislation, or regulation.
- Engagement with communities or contributions to societal challenges.
- Research applied in public sector projects, NGOs, or government bodies.



1.6. Mentorship and Capacity Building

Rationale: Recognizing researchers who actively mentor early career researchers, postgraduates, and students is essential in fostering a vibrant academic environment. Mentorship ensures the transfer of knowledge, skills, and academic leadership, strengthening the university's research ecosystem.

Key Metrics:

- Number of postgraduate students supervised (PhD, Master's).
- Contributions to early-career researcher development (workshops, training).
- Successful mentorship leading to published works or completed theses by mentees.

1.7. Engagement and Outreach

Rationale: Research should not only remain within academic circles but also reach broader audiences. Researchers who actively engage the public, industry, or policymakers, or who work on projects with direct social or environmental benefits, exemplify the university's commitment to community engagement and knowledge dissemination.

Key Metrics:

- Public engagement activities (media outreach, public lectures, science communication).
- Industry collaboration or community outreach projects.
- Participation in public forums, think tanks, or advisory panels.

1.8. Sustainability and Relevance

Rationale: Research that contributes to sustainable development, whether through environmental, economic, or social innovation, is critical in today's world. This criterion rewards research that aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or addresses key national or global sustainability issues.

Key Metrics:

- Research projects that address sustainability or environmental challenges.
- Contribution to SDG-focused initiatives or outcomes.
- Impact on sustainable practices, resource management, or social equity.



1.9. Research Leadership

Rationale: Research leaders who coordinate large projects, lead research centers, or establish new research agendas within their fields are essential to driving the university's research strategy. This criterion recognizes those who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in building research teams, attracting funding, and fostering collaborations.

Key Metrics:

- Leadership in national or international research consortia.
- Establishment of research centers or strategic initiatives.
- Success in leading high-impact, large-scale research projects.

2. AWARD CATEGORIES

2.1. University Researchers' of the Year Awards

These awards are conferred at the university level to the overall best-performing researcher of NUST with a certificate and cash prize. Types of Awards include:

- a. NUST Early-Career Researcher Award
- b. NUST Middle career Researcher Award
- c. NUST Advanced Researcher of the Year Award

2.2. Faculty Researcher of the Year Award

This award is conferred at the faculty level to the best-performing researcher of the respective faculty with a certificate and cash prize. Faculty Researchers are awarded in the following categories:

- a. Faculty Early-Career Researcher Award
- b. Faculty Middle career researcher Award
- c. Faculty Advanced Researcher of the Year Award



2.3. CATEGORIES

2.3.1. Category A: Research, Innovation Achievements, and Outputs

Research and innovation achievements would include the following:

- A1 Articles in peer-reviewed academic journals;
- A2 Books [authored, co-authored and edited], chapters in books, and creative writing;
- A3 Peer-reviewed papers in conference proceedings, plenary/keynote presentations, and oral/poster presentations;
- A4 Peer-reviewed artistic outputs, prototypes, and patents;
- A5 Scholarly contributions to newspapers; and
- A6 Supervision of postgraduate students.
- A7 This refers to any postgraduate external committee contributions. Can vary from M and D outputs, external examination, recruitment and evaluation committees.
- A8 Editorial services, peer review service, technical committee membership.

2.3.2. Category B: Grants and Awards

This refers to any external funding received from any funding agency including governmental, and international organisations for approved projects, research and innovation awards.

2.4. Eligibility Criteria

Faculty members being considered for the awards must meet the following criteria:

- a. Must be full-time staff member NUST;
- b. Must have registered internationally acknowledged researcher ID [contribution towards recognition of University ranking and impact]
- c. Have articles uploaded on the NUST Ounongo Repository [OR]
- d. Data for the calendar year [1 October of the previous year and 31 September] under consideration will only be applicable;
- e. Insufficient documentary of proof will not be considered.
- f. Publications, projects, research grants, student supervision etc. related to NUST will be considered;



- g. The Advanced Researchers of the Year Awards must have
 - i. a PhD degree or its equivalent and
 - ii. a minimum score of 18 points in categories A; B and C
- h. The Mid Career Researcher of the Year Awardee must have
 - i. a PhD degree and
 - ii. a minimum score of 10 points in categories A; B and C
- c. The Early-Career Researcher of the Year Award must have
 - i. Master's degrees and or studying for master's degree and
 - ii. a minimum score of 7 points in categories A

3. PROCEDURE

The procedure will be as follows:

- i. The office of the IRPC Chairperson will send nomination requests to Executive Deans and HoDs. This request includes a standard form to be used for evaluation and guidelines, which will enable the concerned staff to provide the required information.
- ii. The Head of Departments (HoD) will submit the evaluation of their best candidates to the Office of the Executive Dean.
- iii. The submissions will be evaluated and scrutinised by the Faculty Research and Publication Committee (FRPC)
- iv. The evaluation of the Faculty's Researchers of the Year is submitted to the Chairperson of the IRPC, including all required documentation.
- v. The NUST researchers of the year will deliver a public lecture to University Academics.

4. CONCLUSION

The criteria for the University Annual Researcher Awards are designed to celebrate excellence, impact, and innovation in research, while fostering a research culture that aligns with the university's strategic goals. These criteria ensure that both academic excellence and societal contributions are recognized, motivating researchers to pursue impactful research that benefits their fields, communities, and the world.



ANNEXURE A

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETION OF THE EVALUATION FORM

The evaluation form must be completed with great accuracy and all entries must be substantiated with the necessary documentation without which such points will not be considered. The HoDs must examine submissions from their departments before forwarding them to the Dean's Office. The following serves as guidelines for completing the form:

Category A: Research, Innovation Achievements, and Outputs

Remark: All publications must show the author's affiliation with the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST). Only publications of the current year qualify for submission.

A1. Articles in peer-reviewed Journals

These articles have been published in peer-reviewed journals (listed in the NUST Accredited Indices).

A2. Books, chapters in books, and creative writing

Books refer to peer reviewed scholarly or research publications, not appearing periodically, disseminating original research on developments within specific disciplines, sub-disciplines or fields of study. A minimum contribution for consideration is a complete division, such as a chapter. This sub category considers work done as an editor of a book; and also includes creative writing, such as novels, short stories, poetry, and the like.

A3. Peer-reviewed papers in conference proceedings, plenary/keynote presentations, and oral/poster presentations

This refers to conference proceedings, which contain (i) Peer-reviewed papers published in conference proceedings (listed in the NUST Accredited Indices) and (ii) a full paper published in non-listed NUST Accredited Indices conference proceedings. However, for non-listed in the NUST Accredited publication, list proof must be attached showing that the articles have been peer-reviewed prior to publication.

This sub-category includes Invited/plenary/keynote/oral/poster presentations at conference/ seminar/ workshop presentation, which should be indicated as such on the programme, of which a copy of program or invited letter and/or Certificate of presentation must be submitted.



Also included in this subcategory are oral/poster presentations at recognised international, national and local conferences. Contributions must be listed in a “book of abstracts”. This, together with an official programme or certificate of presentation, has to be attached.

A4. Peer Reviewed Creative Works

This sub-category includes creatorship of a design/architectural work recognised via a publicly understood peer review process conducted by an independent review panel formed from qualified peers in the design discipline recognised by their national or international professional association.

This sub-category also includes creatorship of textual work, such as commercially published novels, volumes of poetry, plays or film scripts. Further, this sub-category includes creating a digital creative work that displays new dynamic visualisation techniques and other forms of modelling or the use of new applications of existing material, forms, software, or ideas, such as multidimensional models, computer programs and software, and visual artworks. The significance of any new work rests on its entry into public discourse through publication.

Patents are also included in this sub-category. According to the Companies and Patents Registration Office at the Namibian Ministry of Trade and Industry, a patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides a new way of doing something or offers a new technical solution to a problem. A patent protects the invention to the owner of the patent. Patents registered in the current year will be considered. A copy of the final registration has to be provided.

A5. Scholarly contributions to newspapers

These contributions refer to articles that are scholarly in nature and have been published in local and national newspapers and magazines. This sub-category includes editorship of a published volume of conference proceedings with ISSN or ISBN (not listed in the NUST Accredited Indices) and Editorship of a published volume of conference proceedings with ISSN listed in the NUST Accredited Indices).

A6. Supervision of postgraduate students

This refers to the supervision of postgraduate students. Submissions are valid for students who graduated in the present year, independent of the institution the student was registered at. Different weights are allocated for Masters (structured, mini-thesis), Masters (structured, thesis), Masters (research), and PhDs.



ANNEXURE B ANNUAL RESEARCHER FORM

I, [Your Full Name], hereby confirm that the information provided in support of the nomination for the Researcher of the Year Award is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false information may disqualify the nominee from consideration for this award.

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominator's Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____



No	Activity	Number	Weight	Points
Category A: Research, Innovation Achievements, and Outputs				
A1	Articles in peer-reviewed journals (listed in the Accredited Indices): a. As main author [4 points per article] b. As co-author [2] points per article]		2	2
A2	Books: a. As sole author (10 points per book) b. As co-author (6 points per book) c. As editor (4 points per book) Peer-reviewed chapters in books: d. As main author (3 points per chapter, max 6 points per book) e. As co-author (2 points per chapter, max 4 points per book) Creative writing: f. As main author (3 points per book) g. As co-author (2 points per book)		10 4 6 4	
A3	Peer-reviewed papers in conference proceedings (listed in the NUST Accredited Indices): a. As main author (3 points per paper) b. As co-author (1.5 points per paper) Conference/Seminar/Workshop presentation a. Plenary/keynote: (1 point per event, presentations max 3 points) b. Oral/poster: (0.5 points per event, presentations, max 1.5 points)		3 1.5 3 0.5	



A4	a. Creatorship of a workpoints	(3 design architectural per design)	3	
	b. Creatorship of a textual	(3 textual workpoints per textual work)	3	
	Patents:			
	c. (6 points per patent)		6	
	d. Creatorship of a creative work	(3 points per digital work)	3	
A5	Scholarly contributions to newspapers:			
	a. (0.5 points per output, max 1.5 points)		1.5	
	Editor of Peer-reviewed journals (listed in the NUST Accredited Indices):			
	b. (1.0 points per journal)			
	Editor of Conference Proceedings with ISSN (listed in the NUST Accredited Indices):		1	
	c. (1) points per conference proceedings)			
A6	Supervision of postgraduate students graduated:		6	
	a. Doctoral supervision (6 points per student)		3	
	b. Master's (research) (3 points per student)		2	
	c. Master's (structured thesis) (2 points per student)		1	
	d. Master's (structured, mini-thesis) (1 point per student)		1	
	e. Honours mini-thesis 1 point per student (applicable to early-career researchers only)			
	Co-supervision of postgraduate students:		3	
	f. Doctoral co-supervision (3 points per student)			
	g. Master's (research) (1.5 points per student)		1.5	
	h. Master's (structured, thesis) (1 point per student)		1	



Category B: Grants and Awards				
Researcher ID:	Activity	Number		
B1	External project and research funding, innovation awards: (1 point per N\$ 100,000, max 10 points)		10	
B2	International Award (2 points per Award)		2	
B3	National Award (1 points per Award)		1	
SUBTOTAL: Category B				



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NUST Annual Researcher Awards Criteria

Enquiries

E: dvcrip@nust.na

www.nust.na