NCRST®
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON RESEARCH, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Research Excellence Awards 2027

Nomination Guidelines

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Purpose of the Research Excellence Awards

The purpose of these Awards is to promote and raise awareness of the critical role that research play in the socio-economic prosperity of Namibia. The Awards recognise individuals, institutions and organisations whose research contribute significantly to national development priorities, economic transformation and societal wellbeing. The guiding principles will be Fairness, Equity, Gender sensitivity, Quality and Sustainability.

Objectives

The objectives of the Awards are to:

- recognise outstanding researchers
- promote research excellence nationally
- inspire young researchers
- strengthen public appreciation of research
- encourage industry investment in research
- promote collaboration among universities, government and industry
- showcase research that contributes to Namibia's development priorities

Awards

The awardees will receive:

- A framed certificate.
- A trophy.
- Prize money.

Nomination eligibilities

Who can nominate

- Anyone familiar with the nominee's work may nominate.
- Applicants can also nominate themselves, and institutions can nominate on behalf of a unit or organisation.
- Form 1 records which type of nomination you are making: self-nomination, institutional nomination or third-party nomination.

Who can be nominated

To be eligible, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Individual nominees must be citizens, permanent residents or holders of a valid work permit of the Republic of Namibia.
- Nominees must be affiliated to NCRST-registered research institutes.
- An organisation may be nominated if it has made a significant contribution to research.
- Posthumous nominations are accepted in exceptional cases.
- Employees of NCRST, Commissioners, Council members and Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports and Culture (MEIYSAC) are not eligible for nomination.

Award categories

Choose the one category that best fits the nominee. If you are unsure, choose the closest fit; NCRST will confirm the final category with the nominee.

Award category	Who it recognises
Lifetime Achievement in Research Award	*A person with a long-standing career of exceptional contribution to Namibia's research ecosystem.*
Senior Researcher of the Year Award (Male and Female)	*An individual with outstanding, high-impact research contributing to national development.*
Mid-career Researcher of the Year Award (Male and Female)	*An individual with outstanding, high-impact research contributing to national development.*
Early Career Researcher Award (Male and Female)	*Early-career researchers showing strong potential and innovative contributions.*
Best Student Researcher Award (Master, Male and Female)	*Exceptional student-led research aligned with Namibia's priority needs.*
Best Student Researcher Award (PhD, Male and Female)	*Exceptional student-led research aligned with Namibia's priority needs.*
Innovation and Technology Development Award	*New inventions, prototypes and technological solutions developed in Namibia; the translation of ideas into practical innovations.*
Community Impact Research Award	*Research that directly improves communities, mainly rural or marginalised areas.*
Research for Policy Influence Award	*Research that has meaningfully shaped government policy, regulation or planning.*
Collaborative Research Excellence Award	*Joint projects across institutions, disciplines or international partnerships.*
Science Communication & Public Engagement Award	*Journalists or media houses that effectively communicate science to the public; excellence in science journalism and public engagement.*
Emerging Research Institution of the Year Award	*Emerging institutions with outstanding research outputs, impact and innovation activity.*
Industry Research and Development Award	*Businesses that invest in and develop new technologies or research-based solutions.*

How to nominate

Step	What to do
1	Read this guideline and confirm the nominee is eligible
2	Choose the award category
3	Complete **Form 1** in full: your details, the nominee's details, the category, a short reason for the nomination (about 150 to 200 words) and your declaration.
4	Submit Form 1 through the designated online submission link or through an alternative method expressly authorised by NCRST. Nominations sent any other way will not be considered.
5	Keep your submission confirmation or receipt.

Note: *Have these ready before you start: the nominee's full name, institution and contact details; your own details and relationship to the nominee; the chosen category; and your short reason for the nomination.*

DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION

Form 1 is the only document required from you. Nominations close on 30 November 2026. Submission link: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/anWFfnrqgU

Conflict of interest and integrity

- Please declare any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest between you and the nominee in Form 1. For example, a close personal or professional relationship that could influence the credibility of the nomination. Declaring a conflict does not automatically disqualify a nomination. The nominee later completes the full Conflict of Interest Declaration at the evidence stage.
- Submit your nomination in good faith. Failure to disclose a conflict of interest, or providing false information, may result in disqualification.

What happens after you nominate

- Submission of a nomination does not guarantee eligibility or acceptance for assessment. The process runs as follows:

When	What happens
On receipt	NCRST checks the nomination for completeness and eligibility, issues a nomination reference number and confirms the category.
After confirmation	NCRST contacts the nominee who is invited to accept the nomination and submit evidence using the Evidence Submission Guideline and Form 2.
December 2026	Administrative screening and commencement of independent peer review.
January 2027	Peer review completed and international evaluation undertaken.
Early February 2027	Final evaluation, moderation and verification.
Last week of February 2027	National Research Excellence Awards Ceremony.
March 2027	Research Excellence Report and Awards Closure Report completed.

Note: *Nominators may be contacted by NCRST to clarify the nomination. Queries about the process should be directed to NCRST through the channel stated in the call for nomination*

Enquiries

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