

## ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize Application guidelines 2019

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Summary .....	1
Key dates .....	1
Categories .....	2
Outstanding Business and Enterprise Impact.....	2
Outstanding Public Policy Impact .....	2
Outstanding Societal Impact .....	2
Outstanding International Impact.....	2
Outstanding Early Career Impact.....	2
Impact Champion .....	3
Who can apply.....	3
Assessment criteria and process.....	3
Use of prize money .....	4
Completing the application forms.....	4
Applications for Outstanding Impact categories .....	4
Applications for the Impact Champion category .....	6
If you are nominating someone else for Impact Champion.....	7
If you are nominating yourself for Impact Champion .....	8
Terms and conditions .....	9
Data Protection.....	10
Contact us .....	10

### Summary

The ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize is an annual opportunity to recognize and celebrate the success of ESRC-funded researchers in achieving and enabling outstanding economic and/or social impact from excellent social science research. All finalists have a film professionally made about their work and its impact, and winners are awarded £10,000 to spend on further knowledge exchange, public engagement or other impact related activities.

To apply, researchers (individually or in a team) complete an online form which is reviewed by academics, engagement and knowledge exchange experts and research users. Shortlisted applicants with a non-academic supporter are invited to present to an interview panel where the winners will be decided. All finalists are expected to attend a high profile awards ceremony, where the winners are announced.

### Key dates

Applications close:	<b>16:00 on 8 January 2019</b>
Interviews for shortlisted candidates:	<b>27 and 28 March 2019</b>

## **Categories**

There are six categories for the ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize.

### **Outstanding Business and Enterprise Impact**

This category recognises where outstanding social science research has demonstrably helped to bring about changes in practice, thinking or capacity within a business and/or enterprise that have benefited employees, businesses, specific enterprise groups and sectors or the broader economy. For example, benefits could emerge from research contributing to innovation or direct change in practice or management structures, or through supporting the use of new skills and training activities. This category includes impact with for profit business and social and community enterprises, and can include trading and commercial arms of not for profit enterprises including HEIs.

### **Outstanding Public Policy Impact**

This category recognises where outstanding social science research has demonstrably helped to bring about changes in practice, thinking or capacity within public policy at the local, regional or national government level that have benefited individuals, organisations or sectors designing, delivering or using public services. For example, benefits could emerge from research contributing to direct changes in policy, changes to how decision-makers view issues and the development of more effective and efficient practice by professionals or the users of public services.

### **Outstanding Societal Impact**

This category recognises where outstanding social science research has demonstrably helped to bring about changes in practice, thinking or capacity that have made a contribution benefitting a specific group of the public or society more widely. For example, benefits could emerge from researchers working with local or community groups, charities or other social engagement.

### **Outstanding International Impact**

This category recognises where outstanding social science research has demonstrably helped to bring about change in practice, thinking or capacity within business/enterprise, public policy, or societal issues at an international level across multiple countries. Benefits to individuals, organisations and/or nations must have occurred across multiple countries including at least one outside the place(s) where the research has been conducted, and applicants will need to demonstrate collaboration across multiple countries. Where an impact has occurred in the same country as the research undertaken, applicants should apply to the above categories only.

### **Outstanding Early Career Impact**

This category recognises where social scientists at the beginning of their academic careers have achieved or shown potential in achieving outstanding impacts in any of the above categories. Applications are invited from current ESRC doctoral students or those who have completed their ESRC doctoral studentship funding within the last four years.

## Impact Champion

This category recognises an individual academic (either self-nominated or by a third party) who has a significant track record in supporting and enabling others to achieve impact. The individual will be an advocate of innovative approaches and behaviours and inspire others to collaborate and co-produce research for maximum impact.

You can see examples of previous Prize winners at <https://esrc.ukri.org/research/celebrating-impact-prize/> and other examples of impact from ESRC-funded research are available at <https://esrc.ukri.org/news-events-and-publications/impact-case-studies/>. ESRC's definition of impact is provided at [www.esrc.ukri.org/research/impact-toolkit/what-is-impact/](http://www.esrc.ukri.org/research/impact-toolkit/what-is-impact/).

## Who can apply

For the **Outstanding Impact** categories applications are welcome from individuals or teams. The competition is open to all researchers supported by the ESRC and associates including:

- current and previous ESRC-funded researchers including ESRC centres and large investments, ESRC resources and current and previous ESRC Fellows
- team entries where the lead contact and majority of the team meet the above requirements

The Outstanding Early Career Impact prize is open to current ESRC-funded doctoral students and those that have completed their ESRC doctoral studentship funding in the last four years.

Individuals nominated or applying for **Impact Champion** must be:

- a current or previous ESRC-funded researcher including ESRC centres and large investments, ESRC resources and current and previous ESRC Fellows, or
- a current ESRC-funded doctoral students or have completed their ESRC doctoral studentship funding in the last four years

All applicants must have met all conditions of their funding to date.

All applicants may enter one application per category with up to a maximum of three applications in total. Applicants should carefully consider which category is appropriate for their submission.

Previously unsuccessful Celebrating Impact Prize applicants may re-submit an application using a new form. In this instance applicants will need to outline how their achievement has substantially changed since the previous application and include updated information including fresh letters of support. Previously successful applications cannot be resubmitted. Previous winners can submit new applications or be nominated for Impact Champion, provided they have not previously been awarded this title.

## Assessment criteria and process

The Prize panel will consider both the commitment and the initiative of the applicant in supporting the impact of social science research, and the significance of their achieved impact. All applicants must demonstrate how they meet the criteria for the relevant categories.

**Outstanding Impact** applications will be judged against the following criteria:

- Demonstrable link between the ESRC-funded research and impact identified
- The researcher playing an active and leading role in making impact happen
- The extent and significance of impact from the beneficiaries' point of view
- The potential for other researchers to learn and to be inspired
- How well the researcher responded to challenges including failures, opportunities and change of plan
- If an application is a resubmission, there is clear evidence of a substantial additional or different achievement to that previously considered for a prize

**Impact Champion** will be judged against the following criteria:

- Clear connection between the nominee's activities and ESRC funding
- Leadership in enabling others to generate impact from research
- Leadership in enabling others to undertake high quality knowledge exchange. This can include setting up processes, systems and policies and research for supporting impact
- Enabling others to create and adopt innovative approaches to generating impact
- If an application is a resubmission, there is clear evidence of a substantial additional or different achievement to that previously considered for a prize

Applications will be assessed against the Prize criteria through peer review by academics, engagement and knowledge exchange experts and research users. Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to an interview by the Prize panel, along with a non-academic supporter who can help describe the impact of their work. All finalists will be invited to attend a high profile awards ceremony, and a professional video will be made about their work and its impact. Winners will be announced at the event.

## **Use of prize money**

All winners will be awarded £10,000 to be spent during the following 12 month period to further knowledge exchange, public engagement or other impact related activities to promote economic and social impacts of research. During these 12 months ESRC will also contact winners where opportunities are identified for them to contribute to ESRC events or activities. Winners will be expected to report to ESRC on how the prize money is being used and will be asked to report back to the ESRC on the further impact generated. The prize will only be payable to organisations, not individuals.

## **Completing the application forms**

### **Applications for Outstanding Impact categories**

Applications for these categories are via self-nomination only. The application form for these categories is available at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/outstandingimpact/>

The application form contains the following sections:

### **Applicant(s) contact details**

Please enter the details of the applicant, or lead applicant in the case of team applications. Please note this individual will be the primary contact for team entries, including the

shortlisting process, press and all communication and publicity. Please enter details for any co-applicants where relevant.

### **Application details**

- Prize category: Select from one of the options provided.
- Application title: Please enter a title that reflects or describes the impact you are submitting. This title may be used by ESRC for promotional purposes. 15 words maximum limit.
- Previous submissions: You should indicate whether or not you have previously applied to the ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize. If yes, you must provide details of all previous applications including year, prize category and the outcome. You must also describe how the current application involves substantial additional or different achievement to any previous application.

### **ESRC research and support**

- ESRC research funding: Enter details of ESRC support which is directly linked to the application, including grant reference, title of project and name of ESRC investment (centre/programme etc), if applicable.
- ESRC-funded data resources: Please indicate if you have made use of any ESRC-funded data resources in the conduct of this research activity, selecting from a list. If yes, you must provide details (150 words max).
- Other ESRC support: Please indicate if any other ESRC-funded activity is linked to the application. This includes non-research awards such as Networks, support from ESRC Impact Acceleration Accounts, communications and public engagement support, or support from ESRC funded knowledge brokers or intermediaries. If yes, you must provide details (150 words max).
- Other UKRI support: Please indicate if any other UKRI-funded activity is linked to the application, including research funding or other support. If yes, you must provide details (150 words max).

### **Underpinning research**

Through this section you should provide an accessible account of the specific ESRC-funded research underpinning your impact.

- Research question(s) and background: Summarise the question(s) the research underpinning your application sought to address, and why this was important (150 words max).
- Research approach and methodology: Summarise how your underpinning research was conducted, and the research approaches and methodologies used (150 words max).
- Research findings: Summarise the main findings of your underpinning research (200 words max).
- Peer-reviewed publication of findings: Please indicate whether your underpinning research has been published in a peer-reviewed journal article or other peer-reviewed output. If yes, you must provide details of relevant publication(s) and at least one link to an open access copy. If this is not available, please upload a PDF copy later in your application. Only where neither of these options is possible, you may provide only a full reference for the publication(s). If no, please provide a link to

any open access publication presenting your underpinning research, or an explanation of why this is also not possible.

- Other prizes: Please provide details of any prizes, awards, or other markers of scientific esteem which your underpinning research has received (150 words max).

### **Impact achieved**

- Summary of non-academic impact: Please provide a succinct summary of the non-academic impact of your underpinning research. You should refer to the ESRC definition and typology of impact in describing the nature of the impact (see <https://esrc.ukri.org/research/impact-toolkit/what-is-impact/>). You must clearly demonstrate how this impact is directly linked to the underpinning research (300 words max).
- Your actions: Please describe the specific actions you took to enable this impact to happen, showing how you played an active and leading role (300 words max).
- Challenges and how they were addressed: Please describe any challenges encountered in your work, including failures, opportunities and changes of plan, and how you responded to them (300 words max).
- Extent and significance for beneficiaries: Please describe and evidence the extent and significance of the impact for non-academic beneficiaries (300 words max).
- Sharing learning with others: Please describe how you are sharing the lessons learned from this process with other researchers (300 words max).

### **Supporting documents**

Please upload or provide the following supporting documentation. Supporting documents must be submitted in PDF or Word (.doc / .docx) format. Attachments should be no larger than 1MB each:

- Letter of endorsement from at least one non-academic individual or organisation: The letter should explain the stakeholder's relationship to you and how your ESRC activity has been used by, or has influenced, their work. An assessment of the importance of the researcher's work on the users/beneficiaries/sector should also be included. It is possible to upload multiple letters.
- Letter of support from your Head of Department or equivalent: This must state that they support all contents of the application and clearly explain the reasons why they think you should receive an ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize
- Web link to your latest online biography
- Peer reviewed publication: Where necessary (see above) please upload a copy of at least one peer reviewed publication associated with the underpinning research.

### **Applications for the Impact Champion category**

Applications to this category are for individuals only and may be by:

- nomination by a third party
- self-nomination

## **If you are nominating someone else for Impact Champion**

The **third party nomination** form is available at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/impactchampion-thirdpartynomination/> and contains the following sections:

### **Your details**

Complete this section with your contact details.

### **Nominee's details**

Enter the contact details for the individual you are nominating  
Explain your relationship to the nominee ie in what capacity you know them and their work.

### **ESRC research and support**

- **ESRC research funding:** Enter details of ESRC support which is directly linked to the application, including grant reference (if known), title of project and name of ESRC investment (centre/programme etc), if applicable.
- **Other ESRC support:** Please indicate whether any other ESRC-funded activity is linked to the application. This includes non-research awards such as Networks, support from ESRC Impact Acceleration Accounts, communications and public engagement support, or support from ESRC funded knowledge brokers or intermediaries. If yes, you must provide details (150 words max).
- **Other UKRI support:** Please indicate whether any other UKRI-funded activity is linked to the application, including research funding or other support. If yes, you must provide details (150 words max).

### **Nominee's contribution to championing impact**

- **Summary of achievements and successes:** Please provide a succinct summary of why the nominee should be Impact Champion, succinctly explaining their relevant achievements and successes (200 words max).
- **Impact leadership:** Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated leadership in enabling others to generate impact from research. Please provide specific examples (300 words max).
- **Knowledge exchange leadership:** Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated leadership in enabling others to undertake high quality knowledge exchange, for example through establishing processes, systems, policies and research to support knowledge exchange. Please provide specific examples (300 words max).
- **Enabling innovation:** Please describe how the nominee has enabled others to create and adopt innovative approaches to generating impact. Please provide specific examples (300 words max).
- **ESRC support:** Please describe how ESRC funding has specifically supported the nominee in the activities described (200 words max).

### **Supporting documents**

Please upload or provide the following supporting documentation. Supporting documents must be submitted in PDF or Word (.doc / .docx) format. Attachments should be no larger than 1MB each:

- Statement from nominee: The statement should summarise, from the nominee's perspective, how they think they meet the criteria for Impact Champion (500 words max).
- Letter of endorsement from at least one (academic or non-academic) individual or organisation: The letter should explain the stakeholder's relationship to the nominee and how the nominee's ESRC activity has been used by, or has influenced, their own impact work. An assessment of the importance of the nominee's work championing impact for other researchers as well as research users should also be included. It is possible to upload multiple letters.
- Letter of support from nominee's Head of Department or equivalent: This should state that they support all contents of the application and clearly explain the reasons why they think the nominee should receive an ESRC Impact Champion Prize.
- Web link to nominee's latest online biography

### **If you are nominating yourself for Impact Champion**

The **self-nomination form** is available at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/impactchampion-selfnomination/> and contains the following sections:

#### **Your details**

- Complete this section with your contact details.

#### **Application details**

- Previous submissions: Please indicate whether or not you have previously applied to the ESRC Impact Champion. If yes, you must provide details of all previous applications including year and the outcome.

#### **ESRC research and support**

- ESRC research funding: Enter details of ESRC support which is directly linked to the application, including grant reference, title of project and name of ESRC investment (centre/programme etc), if applicable.
- Other ESRC support: Please indicate if any other ESRC-funded activity is linked to the application. This includes non-research awards such as Networks, support from ESRC Impact Acceleration Accounts, communications and public engagement support, or support from ESRC-funded knowledge brokers or intermediaries. If yes, you must provide details (150 words max).
- Other UKRI support: Please indicate if any other UKRI-funded activity is linked to the application, including research funding or other support. If yes, you must provide details (150 words max).

### **Your contribution to championing impact**

- Summary of achievements and successes: Please provide a succinct summary of why you think you should be Impact Champion, succinctly explaining your relevant achievements and successes (200 words max).
- Impact leadership: Please describe how you have demonstrated leadership in enabling others to generate impact from research. Please provide specific examples (300 words max).
- Knowledge exchange leadership: Please describe how you have demonstrated leadership in enabling others to undertake high quality knowledge exchange, for example through establishing processes, systems, policies and research to support knowledge exchange. Please provide specific examples (300 words max).
- Enabling innovation: Please describe how you have enabled others to create and adopt innovative approaches to generating impact. Please provide specific examples (300 words max).
- ESRC support: Please describe how ESRC funding has specifically supported you in the activities described (200 words max).

### **Supporting documents**

- Please upload or provide the following supporting documentation. Supporting documents must be submitted in PDF or Word (.doc / .docx) format. Attachments should be no larger than 1MB each
- Letter of endorsement from at least one (academic or non-academic) individual or organisation: The letter should explain the stakeholder's relationship to you and how your ESRC activity has been used by, or has influenced, their own impact work. An assessment of the importance of your work championing impact for other researchers as well as research users should also be included. It is possible to upload multiple letters.
- Letter of support from your Head of Department or equivalent: This should state that they support all contents of the application and clearly explain the reasons why they think you should receive an ESRC Impact Champion Prize.
- Web link to your latest online biography

### **Terms and conditions**

By submitting the form you declare that the application has been completed fully and correctly at the time of submission, and that you and any nominees accept the terms and conditions:

- The named lead contact will be the individual approached for all communications and publicity relating to the application.
- If a nominee to the Impact Champion category is awarded a prize, the nominator's name and other content they have provided in the application may be used in ESRC literature or promotional activities.
- Applicants will be available to attend the interview scheduled for shortlisted candidates on 27 and 28 March 2019. ESRC will provide shortlisted finalists with at least two weeks' notice of the date of their interview.
- If selected as a finalist, applicants will work with the ESRC in a timely manner to develop publicity material for use during the prize ceremony and subsequently.

- If selected as a finalist, applicants will attend the high profile award event in London, 9 July 2019.
- Any photos, video and quotes taken from the event and application process can be used in any ESRC literature or promotional activities.
- If asked, during the following 12 month period winners and finalists will endeavour to attend events with ESRC to promote impact, and engage with other identified opportunities to support ESRC activity.
- Winners and finalists agree to comply with any reporting and evaluation activity associated with the Prize in a timely manner on request from ESRC.
- Winners and finalists will keep the ESRC informed of any changes in contact details and of any press releases that are issued related to the impact for the next five years.
- Reasonable travel costs incurred will be reimbursed as per the UKRI travel and subsistence guidelines, if and when previously agreed with the ESRC.

### **Data Protection**

The ESRC will collect, store and use all personal data entrants provide in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation. Further details about how the ESRC processes and handles data can be found in our privacy policy.

### **Contact us**

For more information contact the ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize team:

- Email: [impact@esrc.ukri.org](mailto:impact@esrc.ukri.org)
- Telephone: 01793 413114