

ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize 2018 Application guidelines

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Summary

The ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize is an annual opportunity to recognise and reward the successes of ESRC-funded researchers and other ESRC associates who have achieved, or are currently achieving, outstanding economic or societal impacts. A prize of £10,000 is awarded to the winners of each Outstanding category. A prize of £10,000 is awarded to the Impact Champion category winner, which is open to an individual academic associated with the ESRC.

Key dates

Applications close	16:00 on 23 November 2017
Interviews for shortlisted candidates	14 and 15 March 2018
Prize ceremony in London	June 2018 (date to be confirmed)

Who can apply

For the **Outstanding Impact** categories applications are welcome from individuals or teams detailing the outstanding impact(s) of their research, knowledge exchange or impact generating activities.

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
- current ESRC-funded doctoral students and those that have completed their ESRC doctoral studentship funding in the last three years are eligible to apply for the Outstanding Early Career Impact prize
- team entries for the Outstanding Impact categories where the lead contact and majority of the team meet the above requirements

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 student and or an individual who has completed their ESRC doctoral studentship funding in the last three 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.

Previous applicants may:

- Re-submit any previous applications using a new application form and updated information including fresh letters of support
- Outline how their impact has changed since the previous application

Previous winners may:

- Resubmit any previously unsuccessful applications using a new application form and updated information including fresh letters of support
- Outline how their impact has changed since the previous application
- Enter one application per category of impact, up to a maximum of three applications per year in total. This may include previous winning applications on the condition it is substantially amended to reflect more recent progress and success
- Be nominated for the Impact Champion, providing they have not previously been awarded this title.

Categories

There are six categories for the ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize, as outlined below. Examples of previous category winners are located at www.esrc.ac.uk/impactprize. Examples of impact may be found at www.esrc.ac.uk/impact.

Outstanding Impact in Business and Enterprise

This prize will recognise outstanding research which has brought about impact with business and enterprise. This category includes impact with for profit business and social and community enterprises. Trading and commercial arms of not for profit enterprises including HEIs can be included. Impact could include a direct benefit to an individual business, group of enterprises or a sector through innovation or direct change in practice or management structures, or through utilisation of new skills and training activities. Entries should be supported by evidence of the benefit or take up.

Outstanding Impact in Public Policy

This prize will recognise research that has contributed to the development of UK public policy, at the local, regional or national government level. This could include 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. Entries should be supported by evidence that the research has been taken up and used by policymakers and public service practitioners.

Outstanding Impact in Society

This prize will recognise research that has made a contribution benefitting a specific group of the public or society more widely. This could include impacts from working with local or community groups, charities or wider society. Entries should be supported by evidence that the research has made a difference.

Outstanding International Impact

This prize will recognise research that has achieved impact at an international level across countries in business, policy or societal issues.

Applicants wishing to apply to the Outstanding International category must demonstrate collaboration across multiple countries and an impact in a country outside of the place where the research has been undertaken.

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 prize will recognise social scientists at the beginning of their academic careers who have achieved or show potential in achieving outstanding impacts in any of the above categories. Applications are welcome from current ESRC doctoral students, and past students whose ESRC studentship funding ended on or after 23 November 2013.

Impact Champion

This prize will recognise an individual academic (nominated by a third party or self-nominated) 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.

Assessment criteria

All applicants should show how they meet the criteria for the relevant categories.

Outstanding Impact applications will be judged against the following criteria:

- Demonstrable link between the 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 applications 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.

Competition process

Applications will be assessed through peer review by academics, engagement and knowledge exchange experts and research users. Shortlisted candidates will then be invited to an interview and the winners will be announced at the award ceremony.

Use of prize money

All winners will be able to spend each prize within a 12 month period to further knowledge exchange, public engagement or other communications activities to promote economic and social impacts of research. Winners will be expected to report to ESRC on how the prize money is being used and report back to the ESRC on the further impact generated. For team winners the prize will be split equally among the individuals in that team. The prize will only be payable to organisations, not individuals.

Completing the application forms

Applicants for Outstanding Impact categories

The Outstanding Impact application forms can be found online at:

<https://fs3.formsite.com/esrcforms/outstandingimpact/index.html>

The application form contains the following sections:

Applicant(s) details

- **Name and contact details**

Enter the details of the lead contact. Please note this individual will be the primary contact for team entries, including the shortlisting process, press and all communication and publicity.

- **Details of anyone else you are including in your application**

- **Have you submitted before?**

State whether you have submitted an application to the ESRC Impact Prize before. If you have, tell us the year of your application.

- **Please state how this year's application differs to your previous submission**

Include your previous application submission reference number and/or title. This helps us to locate your previous application for the benefit of the assessment panel.

Your impact

- **Prize category**

Select from one of the options provided.

- **Title of your submission**

This can either be the title of the research or knowledge exchange activity that the impact you are claiming is based upon, a description of impacts you are submitting or a benefit identified by a third party. This title may be used by ESRC for promotional purposes. Please limit the title to no more than 15 words.

- **ESRC funded grants or activities linked to your submission (500 words max)**

Enter details of ESRC support which has helped lead to the impact including grant reference, title of project and name of ESRC investment (centre/programme etc), if applicable.

Highlight any use of ESRC supported data resources (such as longitudinal surveys) or infrastructure (such as the UK Data Service, the Administrative Data Research Network and its associated Centres and Census Support Units).

- **The research upon which your impact application is based (500 words max)**

Describe the research question, research approach (including a summary of the design) and the principal findings. Do not refer to, or summarise, literature.

- **Details of impacts and how they came about (1,000 words max)**

Answer the two questions below:

1. What you did to enable the impact described in the summary above to happen?
2. How does your entry meet the criteria? These are:
 - Demonstrable link between the research and the impact identified

- If an application is a resubmission, there is clear evidence of a substantial additional or different achievement to that previously considered for a prize
 - The researcher playing an active and leading role in making the impact happen
 - The extent and significance of the impact from the beneficiaries' point of view
 - The potential for other researchers to learn and to be inspired.
- **Challenges encountered and how you addressed them (150 words max)**
Explain how you responded to challenges including failures, opportunities and change of plan.

Supporting documents

In addition to the application please include the following:

- **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 Prize (eg accomplishments on behalf of the institution and colleagues, personal attributes and service to their discipline or field of inquiry)
- **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
- **Web link to your latest online biography**

You may upload multiple letters of support, but please be aware that the form only allows one attachment under each section, so we would suggest merging all letters of support into a single PDF for uploading.

Applicants for the Impact Champion category

Applications to this category may be by:

- Option 1 - nominated by a third party
- Option 2 - self-nomination

Option 1: If you are nominating someone else for Impact Champion

The application form is available at <https://fs3.formsite.com/esrcforms/impactchampion-nominated/index.html> 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

- **Your relationship to the nominee**
Explain your relationship to the nominee ie in what capacity do you know them and their work?

ESRC grants or activities linked to your nomination

Outline the nominee's connection to ESRC support, ie the grants awarded by ESRC or activities they have been carrying out for us, giving details of:

- Grant references, if known
- Titles of project
- Name of ESRC investment (centre/programme etc) if applicable

Summary

In no more than 150 words please provide a short summary of why the nominee should be impact champion, explaining succinctly their achievements and successes.

How the nominee meets the criteria for Impact Champion

In no more than 750 words, explain how the nominee meets the criteria for this category:

- 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. Help text: 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.

Personal statement from nominee (maximum 500 words)

Please ask the nominee to prepare a statement how they think they meet the criteria for the Impact Champion category.

Additional documentation

In addition to the application please include the following:

- **Letter of support from the 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 applicant should receive an ESRC Impact Champion Prize (eg accomplishments on behalf of the institution and colleagues, personal attributes and service to their discipline or field of inquiry)
- **Letter of endorsement from at least one non-academic individual or organisation**
The letter should explain the stakeholder's relationship to the nominee and how their 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
- **Web link to the nominee's latest online biography**

You may upload multiple letters of support, but please be aware that the form only allows one attachment under each section, so we would suggest merging all letters of support into a single PDF for uploading

Option 2: If you are nominating yourself for Impact Champion

The application form is available at <https://fs3.formsite.com/esrcforms/impactchampion-selfnom/index.html> and contains the following sections:

Your details

Complete this section with your contact details.

- **Have you submitted before?**
State whether you have submitted an application to the ESRC Impact Prize before. If you have, tell us the year of your application.
- **Please state how this year's application differs to your previous submission**
Include your previous application submission reference number and/or title. This helps us to locate your previous application for the benefit of the assessment panel.

ESRC grants or activities linked to your nomination

Please describe your connection to ESRC support, giving details of:

- Grant references
- Titles of project
- Name of ESRC investment (centre/programme etc) if applicable

Summary

In no more than 150 words please provide a short summary of why you should be impact champion, explaining succinctly your achievements and successes. This should include reference to your colleagues where appropriate.

Detail of your contribution to championing impact

In no more than 750 words, detail how you meet the criteria for this category:

- 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.
Help text: 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.

Additional documentation

In addition to the application please include the following:

- **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 (eg accomplishments on behalf of the institution and colleagues, personal attributes and service to their discipline or field of inquiry)
- **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 your work on the users/beneficiaries/sector should also be included

- **Web link to your latest online biography**

You may upload multiple letters of support, but please be aware that the form only allows one attachment under each section, so we would suggest merging all letters of support into a single PDF for uploading.

Terms and conditions

By submitting an application you declare that it has been completed fully and correctly at the time of submission, and that you and any nominees accept the terms and conditions, available at: <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/research/celebrating-impact-prize/terms-and-conditions/>

Data Protection

For further information on how your personal information will be processed, in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1988), contact the Data Protection Officer, information.charter@esrc.ac.uk.

Contact us

For more information about the ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize contact:

- Impact Prize Officer
Email: impact@esrc.ac.uk
Telephone: 01793 413017