**Award for Excellence in PhD Research Supervision**

1. **Introduction**

As part of the strategy for supporting research excellence, Ulster University wishes to recognise the outstanding accomplishment of staff members. This indicator of recognition is in the form of an annual award for Excellence in PhD Research Supervision.

There will be up to four awards for Excellence in PhD Research Supervision available annually, aligned to respective Faculties. The winners of these Awards will be honoured at a Research Excellence Award ceremony.

1. **Focus of Award**

This Award for Excellence in PhD Research Supervision is awarded to individuals who have been supervising PhD researchers over several years and can demonstrate a sustained body of exceptional supervision, encouragement and support for PhD researchers and influenced research supervision practices and culture within their area of practice.

In particular, the individual’s contribution will be directly related to the themes and priorities within the University’s strategy, Research Strategy, and sector priorities for PhD supervision. It is expected this will focus on practices that demonstrate a stimulating environment for research, foster an inclusive and diverse culture and/or promote a strong record of successful PhD completion and progression.

This could include excellence in the following areas:

* Evidence of outstanding results from PhD supervision over several years
* Developing a pioneering approach to supervision
* Creating a stimulating environment for PhD research
* Challenging PhD researchers intellectually and helping them to make substantial contributions to their academic field and pushing boundaries.
* Being available, approachable, and supportive
* A strong record of successful PhD researcher completion and progression
* A wider commitment to postgraduate education

Research Supervision Awardees will be expected to share their experience and practice with colleagues at Ulster supported by Doctoral College. They will be expected to provide ongoing leadership in PhD supervision through involvement in Doctoral College led initiatives for PhD supervision and mentoring colleagues.

1. **Eligibility**

* Any member of staff who is involved in PhD supervision at Ulster University and has been providing PhD supervision over a sustained period.
* Has supervised PhD researchers to successful completion.
* Previous award winners may not be re-nominated for the same category of award until at least three years have passed since their previous success.
* Those who have been nominated previously but did not receive an award can be nominated again the following year.

**How to apply**

* Applicants must submit their application form to their relevant Associate Deans (Research & Innovation) **by 12 noon on Friday 10th January 2025.**
* Application form: should provide a 1000-word Reflective Statement on their sustained contribution to excellence in PhD supervision and how they have had a transformative effect on PhD supervision. This should evidence a sustained body of outstanding practices that have impacted significantly on PhD students and influenced the PhD supervision practices of peers within Ulster and more widely.
* Submissions should be endorsed by the applicant’s Line Manager to confirm the veracity of the claims made within the application.

**Criteria**

The Assessment Panel will be looking for applicants’ ability to:

* Demonstrate a significant leadership contribution to the Ulster University community and sector as part of this application.
* Show sustained evidence of enhancing and transforming the PhD researcher experience commensurate with the individual’s context, aligned to university research strategy and sector priorities.
* Evidence of outstanding results from PhD supervision over a number of years; evidence of supporting colleagues and influencing support for PhD supervision; demonstrating wide-ranging impact and engagement beyond the applicant’s immediate role.
* Show evidence of the applicant’s commitment to her/his ongoing professional development regarding PhD supervision and/or PhD supervision expertise and leadership.
* Support the claim with strong independent evidence of excellence and supporting data, (for example progress of PhD researchers under the nominee's supervision; examples of outstanding PhD achievements and/or successful career progression after completing the PhD, and PhD researcher testimonials). Evidence should be integrated throughout the claim and contributes to the word count.
* Be underpinned by relevant references to the professional knowledge base as evidence of scholarship in PhD supervision.

The selection panel will ONLY draw on the evidence presented in the nomination form when making their decision, so please ensure a good case is presented for submission. Please ensure relevant written student feedback is included with this nomination as well as evidence of how the nominee meets the relevant criteria.

Assessment Panel

The awards will be decided by a selection panel, representing the four ADRIs, Doctoral College and PVC Research