

**Aston Excellence Award  
for  
Outstanding Early-career Researcher of the Year**

Aston Excellence Awards are given to recognise outstanding contribution towards the achievement of Aston's mission. Award winners will be able to demonstrate how they have made, within this period, an outstanding start to their research career and thereby contributed to the reputation of the university with regard to their field of research.

Early Career Researchers are defined as those entering the academic profession within the last 4 years (specifically within the 4 years prior to the date of application for an excellence award). Periods of absence (e.g. due to illness or parental leave) are not counted within the 4 years.

**Criteria For Excellence – Outstanding Early-career Researcher of the Year**

**Nominations should show:**

Evidence of an outstanding contribution to research, commensurate with having been a researcher for less than four years, by, for example:

- a) Having obtained significant support for their research from appropriate funding bodies, relative to their subject norms.
- b) Having an outstanding output record relative to their subject norms. This would include, as appropriate, reference to published work including top citations, patents, novel and ground-breaking developments, contribution to knowledge-transfer, etc.
- c) Recognition of their work from peers.
- d) Supporting research students through creating an environment where they can flourish.

**Process for submitting nominations to the University Panel:**

1. Only one nomination per School can be submitted. Executive Deans should select the most appropriate candidate to put forward.
2. The submission to the internal University Panel comprises one document:

A statement of how the nominee demonstrates excellence relevant to the award criteria. **It is essential** that nominations make **reference to** examples of supporting evidence. Evidence of the impact can be appended to the submission itself, but this should not be excessive in length.

A template, if required for this statement is available via the Staff and Graduate Development website ([www.aston.ac.uk/staff/staffdev/awards/](http://www.aston.ac.uk/staff/staffdev/awards/)). A paper copy of this template is available from Sarah Hosten, Staff and Graduate Development, Room 728, Main Building.

3. Each page should contain the nominee's name and the sponsor's name (i.e. the person submitting the nomination).
4. **A single copy** of the document, unstapled and single-sided, should be submitted to Sarah Hosten, Staff and Graduate Development by **12 noon on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2012**. Late applications will not be accepted.
5. Nominations will be considered by a Panel. Nominees and their sponsors, will be notified of the outcome by 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012.
6. Any queries about completing the submission should be addressed to Sarah Hosten, Staff and Graduate Development, [s.j.hosten@aston.ac.uk](mailto:s.j.hosten@aston.ac.uk).

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