

Working Paper # 20
Best Researcher Awards
Sponsored by Research Dte

Introduction

1. Research has always been a very important component of universities all over the world. Faculty members performing outstanding research are recognized and rewarded for their contribution towards achieving research excellence. NUST, being research led university, fully recognizes the importance of research as well as recognition of outstanding researchers of NUST.

Types of Best Researcher Awards

2. Three types of Best Researcher Awards will be given to faculty members of NUST:

a. **University Best Researcher Awards**

In order to make University Best Researcher Award inclusive catering for all different disciplines at NUST, 03x category-based University Best Researcher Awards have been conferred with a prize money of PKR 150,000/- and a certificate for each category, elucidated as follows:

i. **Category-I (Engineering)**

Researchers having latest degree in any of the relevant disciplines of Engineering, serving at any NUST School / College.

ii. **Category-II (Natural and Biosciences)**

Researchers having latest degree in any of the relevant disciplines of Natural and Biosciences, serving at any NUST School / College.

iii. **Category-III (Management, Social Sciences and Architecture)**

Researchers having latest degree in any of the relevant disciplines of Business, Social Sciences and Architecture, serving at any NUST School / College.

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b. **School / College Best Researcher Awards**

This award is conferred at School / College level to 01x best performing researcher of the respective institution with a certificate and cash prize of PKR 75,000/-.

c. **Top Performer Awards at University level**

In order to make Top Performers Awards inclusive catering for all different disciplines at NUST, 11x category-based Top Performer Awards will be given with a prize money of PKR 25,000/- and a certificate for each category, elucidated as follows:

- i. Maximum Number of Impact Factor Papers Count
- ii. Maximum Number of Citations
- iii. Maximum number 1st author and corresponding author
- iv. Highest Impact Factor
- v. Highest Cited Paper
- vi. Highest H-index
- vii. Early Career Researcher (Publication)
- viii. Maximum Number of International Projects
- ix. Maximum International Funding Secured
- x. Maximum National Funding Secured
- xi. Maximum Number of National Projects
- xii. Maximum Number of Projects Approved

Eligibility Criteria

3. Eligibility criteria formulated below are for the Best Researcher Awards for University as well as School/ College Level:

- a. The researcher must hold a regular 'faculty / staff position' at NUST.
- b. Minimum two-years' service in NUST is essential for Civil Faculty Members but waived-off for military persons serving in NUST
- c. Once awarded at School or University Level, re-nomination shall be considered in the respective category after three years.
- d. Awarded FM at University Level cannot be considered for School / College level for the next 3 years. However, School / College level can be considered for University Level.
- e. Research Papers and Projects will be considered with only NUST affiliation.



Nomination and Selection Process

4. Nominations will be received on prescribed proforma as per SOP of awards.
5. The summary of evaluation will be presented to NUST Evaluation Committee (NEC) and the final selection / approval of University, School / College Best Researcher Awards and Top Performers Awards will be made by NEC. Composition of NEC is:

a.	Pro-Rector (RIC)	Chairman
b.	Director (Research)	Member
c.	Director (ICON)	Member
d.	Director (Def R&D)	Member
e.	Director (DSAR)	Member
f.	Director (HR)	Member
g.	Deputy Director (Projects)	Member
h.	AD (M&E)	Secretary

6. Award will be conferred to the awardee as per SOP.

Recommendation

7. The working paper was recommended by 13th UCRIP meeting held on 21st January 2025 and duly approved by 70th ACM held on 19th February 2025 for implementation and immediate effect.



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UNIVERSITY/ SCHOOL BEST RESEARCHER AWARD (Evaluation Proforma)

1. Particulars of Faculty Member

- a. Name of School / College:
- b. Department:
- c. Name of the Researcher:
- d. Discipline/Subject Category (Engineering/ Natural & Biosciences/
Social Sciences Management and Architecture):
- e. Present Appointment:
- f. Date of Joining:

2. Highest Qualification

3. Area of Specialization/Research Interest

4. Research Profile

4.1 Sponsored Research Projects

Weightage: 40%

- a. **Approved & In-Progress** Weightage: 20 %
- b. **Completed** Weightage: 20 %

a. **Research Projects Approved** (PI = 100%, Co-PI = 50%, Team member = 12.5%)

- i. No. of Approved Projects

	<u>Points per project*</u>
Between PKR >1 to 20M	1 – 10
Less than or equal to PKR 1 M	0.5
- ii. Title of each project

Research Projects In-Progress

(PI = 100%, Co-PI = 50%, Team member = 12.5%)

- i. No. of In-Progress Projects
- | | <u>Points per project*</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Between PKR >1 to 20M | 1 – 10 |
| Less than or equal to PKR 1 M | 0.5 |
| On-time In-progress projects | +5% per project |
| Delayed In-progress projects** | -5% per project |
- ii. Title of each project

*There will be a linear increase in points with an increase in funding amount (0.5 marks increase with each million). For more than 20 M project, 01 bonus marks will be added with every 20 million increase.

** Deduction / Addition of 5% Points only for PI against each on-time or delayed in-progress project, out of total points attained in each in-progress project. This impact will be attributable due to delay / on-time to the faculty member (PI) of the in-progress project only.

*** If the nominee does not have any approved or completed project and the nominee has got negative marks for an in-progress projects due to delay, the overall marks in the project category will be considered as Zero.

b. Research Projects Completed **Weightage: 20 %**
(PI = 100%, Co-PI = 50%, Team member = 12.5%)

- i. No. of projects
- | | <u>Points per project * (**)</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Between PKR >1 to 20M | 1 - 10 |
| Less than or equal to PKR 1 M | 0.5 |
| On-time In-progress projects | +5% per project |
| Delayed Projects*** | -5% per project |
- ii. Title of each project

*There will be a linear increase in points with an increase in funding amount (0.5 marks increase with each million). For more than 20 M project, 01 bonus marks will be added with every 20 million increase.

** Deduction / Addition of 5% Points only for PI against each on-time or delayed completed project, out of total points attained in each completed project. This impact will be attributable due to delay / on-time to the faculty member (PI) of the completed project only.

*** If the nominee does not have any approved or in-progress project and the nominee has got negative marks for a completed project due to delay, the overall marks in the project category will be considered as Zero.



4.2 Research Publications

Weightage: 40%

a. **Impact Factor Journal Paper (WoS) * (**)**

Weightage: 20%

Maximum Points per paper

i.	Quartile 1 (100 th – 75 th percentile)	10
ii.	Quartile 2 (75 th – 50 th percentile)	7.5
iii.	Quartile 3 (50 th – 25 th percentile)	5
iv.	Quartile 4 (25 th – 0 th percentile)	2.5

b. **Conference Papers**

Weightage: 10%

Points per paper

i.	Conference Proceedings with indexed publication *	10
ii.	Conference Proceedings without indexed publication *	02
iii.	Keynote speaker in a conference	05
iv.	Conference organized by NUST faculty as Chair/ Secretary/ Organizing Committee Head/ Focal Person (Max 2 FMs can be recommended with distributed points totaling 4. In case of more than one FM recommended, min 1 and max 2 points can be given)	04

c. **Books**


Weightage: 10%

Points per book or chap

i.	Complete book published*	10
ii.	Book chapter / Review Paper*	02

* Additional weightage of 15% in case of joint international authorship

(**) Points will be awarded with %age factor as per the subject rank of the respective journal using the following formula: $10 \times (TJ - PJ / TJ)$



4.3 PhD Students

Weightage: 12%

	<u>Points per student</u>
a. PhD students supervised or under supervision	10
b. PhD students co-supervised and completed	05

4.4 MS Students

Weightage: 08%

	<u>Points per student</u>
a. MS students supervised and graduated with JCR I.F. publication(s)	10

Signature of Applicant

Countersigned by Commandant/Principal
Stamp



Terms & Conditions:

- a. Data only for the calendar year under consideration will be applicable.
- b. A claim with insufficient documentary proof will not be considered for points' calculation.
- c. The School/ College Level best researcher must have scores in at least 03 sub-categories of the submitted proforma and minimum aggregate score of 20%. However, nominees must have score in 4 sub-categories for University Level Award with minimum aggregate score of 25%
- d. Schools / Colleges / Centers are advised to:
 - i. Process and evaluate the nominations as per the marks specified in the evaluation proforma and send data with all the evidence of 3x nominations to Research Dte. Less than 03x nominations can only be considered if recommended by School / College.
 - ii. The School Level top candidate will be considered for the University Level best researcher award. If the candidate is successful for University Level award, runners-up at the School/College Level will be the winner of the School Level Award.
 - iii. The School/ College may receive nominations from the faculty members lying under more than one university level categories. However, Schools/ Colleges will recommend an overall winner, runner up and the next on merit.
 - iv. Schools/ Colleges will be responsible for the evaluation as per the proforma and evidence. If any false claims are observed during the scrutiny, the nomination of the faculty member will be cancelled.
 - v. The process for considering a nominee due to 3x years constraint will be as follows, after necessary processing through NEC:
 - a) If the School/ College Level winner is not eligible for University Level Award, then the runner up will be considered for University Level
 - b) If the School/ College Level winner is not eligible for School/ College Level, then the runner up will be considered for School/ College level
- e. The School/ College Level, University Level and Top Performers awards and certificates will be conferred in a University Level ceremony to be held every year for the recognition of the best performers in research.
- f. The School/ College will submit all documents in hard form at Research Dte for processing.

Research Projects:

- a. Research projects approved on NUST Research Portal (NRP) will be considered only.
- b. Research Projects with proof of funds released to NUST (as NUST Share) in the calendar year under consideration will be considered only. In case, no funds were released, and in-kind support was provided in the form of equipment then the evidence of ledger for shift of the equipment with the mandatory value approved by the Competent Authority to be provided by the nominee at the time of submission of documents with Proforma.



- c. Consultancy projects will not be considered for the best researcher awards.

Research Publication, Conferences and Books:

- a. Research publications approved on NUST Research Portal (NRP) will only be considered.
- b. Publications with NUST affiliation will only be considered.
- c. Online Publication date during the calendar year will be considered for research publications.
- d. Print publication of the papers, which are published online in the previous years will not be considered.
- e. Subject Category ranking shall be taken from Web of Science Journal Citation Report "Ranking by Journal Impact Factor"
- f. For Journal and Conference papers & review papers, NUST authors in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd position, and corresponding author / student supervisor / PI of the project will only be considered and the same will be verified / intimated by the respective principal of the school / college / centre. Furthermore, in a publication with international authors, positions of NUST authors will be counted excluding international authors.
- g. In publications category, only original research articles will be considered. i.e., letters to editors, guest editorial, abstracts, notes, short paper/study, discussion & comments, erratum and corrigendum will not be considered.
- h. The conference proceeding must be indexed with Scopus or WoS and present in the respective database.
- i. Keynote Speaker will be considered for a conference only. A keynote speech in symposium, workshop, seminar, technical session, and plenary session will not be considered.
- j. Book Series will not be considered as book chapter; however, it will be considered as a conference proceeding.
- k. Extra ordinary Books, Conference proceedings and Articles can be considered for bonus marks on case-to-case basis by NEC.
- l. Editor contribution will not be considered, only book author or chapter author will be considered.
- m. Revised Editions published will not be considered. Only the 1st Edition will be considered.
- n. The content of the book / book chapter should not be outside his / her domain of research.
- o. Review paper can be considered as 01 book chapter, however maximum one review paper can be claimed in the calendar year under consideration
- p. Maximum 5 book chapters (including review paper) will be considered in the category of "Book Chapter Published."

Student Supervisions:

- a. PhD and MS student enrolled in NUST will only be considered.
- b. For PhD Students under supervision, 10% deduction of marks every year after more than 5 Years.
- c. MS students graduated in the previous year (01 year only), and published the research paper in the calendar year under consideration can also be claimed



- d. DSAR Dte will certify the supervision of MS and PhD students claimed by the faculty member for the calendar year under consideration
- e. Postdoctoral supervision of minimum 01 Year or more can be considered equivalent to “1x PhD Student Supervised” on case-to-case basis by NEC

