University of
Reading

Open Research Award 2021: Guidelines

Introduction

The Open Research Award will recognise and reward researchers or research students who have used open practices to make their research more accessible, transparent or reproducible, and who can demonstrate understanding of the principles and aims of Open Research.

The Award is open to research-active members of staff and doctoral research students, who may apply either as individuals or as teams. Entry is by means of a case study describing how open practices have been used in a research context.

A shortlist of four entries will be invited to present their case studies as short talks at a public online Open Research Celebration, which is due to take place from 13.00-15.30 on Wednesday 9th June. The winner of the Open Research Award, and second and joint third places, will be determined by a panel of judges. Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- Winner of the Open Research Award: £500

- Second place: £250

- Joint third place: £150 each.

There will also be a £150 prize for best presentation decided by audience vote on the day.

Prizes awarded to members of staff will be paid into SDA accounts. Prizes awarded to research students will made as cash payments.

Shortlisted entries will be published on the University website as Open Research case studies, and will be promoted in the University's Open Research communications.

The closing date for entries is 12:00 noon on Thursday 6th May.

The Award is administered by the Committee on Open Research and Research Integrity. The Award panel is chaired by Professor Parveen Yaqoob, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation).

Please send any enquiries concerning the Open Research Award to Robert Darby, Research Data Manager at r.m.darby@reading.ac.uk / 0118 378 6161.

How to enter

Research-active members of staff and doctoral research students can enter the competition, either as individuals or as teams.

Entries must be submitted using the **entry form**. A case study of no more than 600 words in length should discuss the use of one or more open practices in the conduct of

research and/or communication of outputs. Entrants should use the Open Research objectives, practices and examples (below) to identify suitable subjects for their case study.

We encourage the submission of case studies that explore the challenges and difficulties of making open choices as well as those that celebrate positive experiences and successful outcomes. We are looking for candid accounts of researchers' motivations for making (or not making) open choices, which offer reasoned assessments of the pros and cons of being open, and are honest about where things did not work or could have been done differently.

The case study should cover the points listed below.

- Introduction, providing a brief description of the case study;

- Description of the research context in which the open practices were employed;

- What open practices were used and why;

- What barriers or challenges were encountered, and how these were handled;

- What benefits were realised, and for whom, as a result of using the open practices;

- What lessons have been learnt from the experience;

- Conclusion, summarising the main take-away message.

Entrants should use the guidance below to ensure that entries are within the brief. Please note that research-related impact and public outreach activities are not within scope of Open Research.

Open Research objectives

Entrants should describe activities that align to one or more of the following Open Research objectives:

- making the outputs of research, including publications, data, code and other research materials **accessible and re-usable** by means of publication under open or broadly permissive licences;

- using digital tools and services and/or computational solutions to make scientific research more **transparent** and **reproducible**;

- using alternative models of publication and peer review to make the **dissemination** and **certification** of research faster and more transparent;

- using open **collaborative** methods and tools to increase efficiency and widen participation in research.

Open practices

The case study should describe one or more of the open practices listed below. For more information about these, please refer to the web page 12 things you can do to be open.

- using publication under an open or broadly permissive licence to communicate research outputs, which may include publications, data, software code, and web resources;

- disseminating research findings as a preprint, either independently of formal submission to a journal, or as part of a journal's open peer review procedure;

- providing open peer review services for one or more papers submitted under a formal peer review process managed by a publisher;

- creating a public pre-registration of a study design or publishing a study as a registered report;

- publishing a data paper or software paper;

- incorporating open and participatory methods into the design and conduct of research, e.g. by using open notebook-based methods or creating a project using a 'citizen science' online platform;

- introducing Open Research concepts and practices into teaching and learning;

- creating new tools or technologies to facilitate Open Research practices, e.g. for combining or repurposing datasets and other research outputs from different locations or disciplines, or for mining content;

- undertaking activities to develop the environment for Open Research, e.g. by engaging in high-profile communications, by causing a journal to adopt pro-Open Research policies, or by participating in community initiatives to develop data or metadata standards.

Case study examples

Below we provide some examples of suitable subjects for a case study. The list is not exhaustive. Entrants may also refer to the write-up of the 2019 Award and our Open Research case studies (some of which are based on entries shortlisted in the 2019 competition).

- A dataset or software source code created by you has been made openly available and subsequently re-used by researchers or other end-users, e.g. to inform further research, policy-making, or the development of services or products;

- You are a humanities researcher who has created an open web resource and consider the practicalities and challenges of sustaining long-term access and usability;

- You have recently submitted an article through a publisher's open peer review system, and discuss your experience and some of the pros and cons of open peer review;

- You have published an Open Access monograph and reflect on your experience;

- You conduct qualitative social science research exploring sensitive issues and discuss the ethical and practical challenges of sharing data collected from participants;

- You have developed a new software tool to facilitate Open Research, e.g. to combine or repurpose datasets from disparate sources;

- You have participated in a community group to develop data or metadata standards and tools for your discipline;

- In your teaching you have introduced students to Open Research principles and practices, for example by setting replication study assignments.

Rules

1. Research-active members of staff and registered doctoral research students are eligible to submit entries.

2. Entries must be submitted using the **entry form**. The closing date for entries is 12:00 noon on Thursday 6th May.

3. Entries may be submitted by individuals or teams. Team entries must be submitted by the team lead.

4. The sole or lead entrant must be a current member of staff or a registered doctoral research student, and expect to continue as a member of the University until at least 30th September 2021. They (or a team member who is also a member of the University in the case of team entries) must be available to give a short presentation based on their case study at the Open Research Celebration at 13.00-15.30 on Wednesday 9th June.

5. For team entries, team members may include non-research staff or individuals from outside the University. We regret that prize payments cannot be made to members of staff without SDA accounts or to individuals who are not members of the University.

6. The panel of judges will determine the winner of the Open Research Award, and second and joint third places. The four entrants will be notified that they have been shortlisted no later than Friday 21st May. (The winner of the Award, and the placement of the other entries, will be announced at the Open Research Celebration.) The shortlisted entrants will be invited to give a 10-minute presentation based on their case study at the Open Research Celebration on 9th June. Presentations must be recorded in advance of the event and made available to the organisers in case of emergency and for publicity purposes after the event.

7. If a shortlisted entry is unable to field someone to present at the conference, the entry will be removed from the shortlist and the prize will be reallocated. In the case of team entries, the lead entrant will be expected to present the case study, but they may co-present with other team members (who may include up to two team members from outside the University). If the lead entrant is unable to present, another team member who is also a member of the University may be substituted.

8. Entrants give permission to the University to make the recording of their presentation publicly available, to publish an edited version of the case study and to disseminate it via internal and external communication channels. Case studies will be published after the Open Research Celebration and promoted in the Autumn term.

9. The winner of the Award and the placement of the other entries will be announced at the Open Research Celebration on 9th June, following the entrants' presentations. The best presentation prize will be selected by audience vote at this event.

10. Prize money will be paid shortly after the Open Research Celebration. Prizes awarded to members of staff will be paid into SDA accounts. Prizes awarded to research students will made as cash payments. In the case of team entries the prize money will be divided according to the wishes of the team.