

UCD Earth Institute Awards 2025

The Earth Institute is delighted to announce a call for nominations for the biennial Earth Institute Awards, celebrating the achievements and contributions of the UCD community in environmental, climate and sustainability research.

The Earth Institute is an active community of over 200 academics and 250 postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers, research fellows, administrative, technical and research support staff working across areas including climate, water, biodiversity, plants for the future, people work society, sustainable communities and the built environment.

The Earth Institute Awards are an opportunity to bring our community together to celebrate the contributions and achievements of staff and postgraduate students from all disciplines who have demonstrated research excellence, innovation, impact and/or citizenship through their work.

We encourage you to consider nominating colleagues and PhD students for the following awards, with full details on eligibility for each category and the nomination process on the following pages:

1. Emerging Researcher Award
2. Early Career Academic Award
3. Good Citizenship Award
4. Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration Award
5. Long Service Contribution Award

Deadline for nominations is **24 April 2025**. The award winners will be announced at a prize-giving ceremony and reception which will be held from 4pm on Thursday 22 May 2025 in the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science.

[Nomination form](#)

Previous award recipients

The awards

1. Emerging Researcher Award

Eligibility: The Emerging Researcher Award celebrates UCD PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and research fellows working in areas relating to Earth Institute thematic areas, in all disciplines. Nominated researchers should demonstrate research excellence, innovation, impact and/or citizenship in their work, relative to their career stage, discipline and/or personal circumstances.

Nomination process: Application to this award is by nomination. Nominators can be a colleague, supervisor, Head of School, or someone else who is familiar with the work of the nominee.

Nominators are asked to complete a nomination form, providing a narrative that outlines the nominee's achievements in one or more of the areas of research excellence, innovation, impact and/or citizenship. The nomination form allows for separate entries of up to 2500 characters (approximately 300 words) for each of these areas. We would encourage nominators to provide context as to why the nominee's achievements are notable in the context of their career stage, discipline and, where appropriate, their personal circumstances.

2. Early Career Academic Award

Eligibility: The Early Career Academic Award celebrates UCD Assistant Professor/Ad Astra early career academics within five years of their first academic appointment (excluding periods outside academia and career breaks) who are working in areas relating to Earth Institute thematic areas, in all disciplines. Nominated academics should demonstrate research excellence, innovation, impact and/or citizenship, relative to their career stage, discipline and/or their personal circumstances.

Nomination process: Application to this award is by nomination. Nominators can be a colleague, Head of School, or someone else who is familiar with the work of the nominee. Nominators are asked to complete a nomination form, providing narrative that outlines the nominee's achievements in one or more of the areas of research excellence, innovation, impact and/or citizenship. The nomination form allows for separate entries of up to 2500 characters (approximately 300 words) for each of these areas. We would encourage nominators to provide context as to why the nominee's achievements are notable in the context of their career stage, discipline and, where appropriate, their personal circumstances.

3. Good Citizenship Award

Eligibility: The Good Citizenship Award celebrates UCD academics, research fellows, postdoctoral researchers and PhD students, research, technical and administrative staff who are working in areas relating to Earth Institute thematic areas, in all disciplines. Nominees should demonstrate good citizenship and support the research culture of the Institute and UCD, relative to their career stage, discipline and/or personal circumstances.

Nomination process: Application to this award is by nomination. Nominators can be a colleague, Head of School, or someone else who is familiar with the work and activities of the

nominee. Nominators are asked to complete a nomination form, providing narrative that outlines the nominee's good citizenship. The nomination form allows for an entry of up to 5000 characters (approximately 600 words). We would encourage nominators to provide context as to why the nominee's contributions are notable in the context of their career stage, discipline and, where appropriate, their personal circumstances.

4. Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration Award

Eligibility: The Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration Award celebrates a collaboration that includes two or more UCD academics, postdoctoral researchers, PhD students, research, technical and/or administrative staff from different disciplines working in areas relating to Earth Institute thematic areas. Nominated collaborations should demonstrate research excellence, innovation and/or impact, relative to the career stage, discipline and/or personal circumstances of the collaborators.

Nomination process: Application to this award is by nomination. Nominators can be a colleague, Head of School, or someone else who is familiar with the collaboration. Nominators are asked to complete a nomination form, providing narrative that outlines the nature of the collaboration, its interdisciplinarity, its achievements in one or more of the areas of research excellence, innovation, and impact, and in particular, how the interdisciplinarity of the collaboration further enhanced the achievement(s). The nomination form allows for separate entries of up to 2500 characters (approximately 300 words) for each of these areas. Nominators may provide context as to why the collaboration is notable in the context of the nominees' career stage, discipline and, where appropriate, their personal circumstances.

5. Long Service Contribution Award

Eligibility: The Long Service Contribution Award seeks to celebrate the contribution and service of members of staff, whether academic, administrative, technical or research support, who are leaving UCD in 2023 after 20 or more years of employment or through retirement.

Nomination process: Nominations for this award can be made by any member of staff or a student. All eligible staff nominated for this prize will receive an award. The nomination form requests an indication as to when the nominee is leaving and some highlights for the nominee's time in UCD.

Nominations for awards should be submitted via our nomination interface. Unfortunately, we cannot accept self-nominations; however, if you are recently arrived to UCD and/or feel your work is not well known to colleagues, and would like to be considered for an award, please contact william.fitzmaurice@ucd.ie and we will support you in identifying a suitable nominator.

Key dates

Call for nominations opens: XX March 2025

Call for nominations closes: Thursday 24 April 2025

Awards ceremony and reception: Thursday 22 May 2025

Research excellence, innovation, impact and citizenship

The following table provides a non-exhaustive indication of the types of outputs and activities that may fall into the categories of research excellence, innovation, impact and citizenship.

Excellence	Innovation	Impact	Citizenship
Publications	Social or environmental enterprise	Impacts beyond the academic - 'change in the world as a result of research'	Mentoring colleagues
Research funding awards	Innovation prizes	Societal, economic, environmental, cultural impact	Going above and beyond in technical or administrative support
Prizes for research excellence	Spin-outs	Policy impact	Arranging seminars or events for your research community
Invited conference papers or keynotes	Patents	Impacts with under-represented groups/communities	Commenting on/reviewing colleagues' papers or grant applications
			Helping colleagues with publications without being listed as co-author

Frequently asked questions

1. Who is eligible to nominated?

Each award has specific eligibility criteria, but in general, the awards are open to UCD staff and PhD researchers who are working in areas related to sustainability, climate and/or the environment, or under the seven Earth Institute research themes. For more details on the research areas these encompass, see the Earth Institute website.

2. I was previously nominated for an award – can I be nominated again?

Yes! If you've been nominated for an Earth Institute award there is no restriction on being nominated again for the same or another award.

3. Who is eligible to submit a nomination?

We welcome nominations from UCD faculty, administrative, technical and research support staff, research fellows, postdoctoral researchers and PhD students. However, self-nominations are not eligible.

4. Can I nominate multiple colleagues/students?

Yes! We welcome multiple nominations. Please submit a new form for each individual nominated.

5. I would like to be considered for an award but am not sure who to ask to nominate me.

If you are a postgraduate student, postdoctoral researcher or research fellow, we would encourage you to ask your supervisor, principal investigator or other mentor to submit a nomination. If you are a member of academic staff, you might consider a colleague or head of school, or one of the Earth Institute research theme leads. Please contact [Will Fitzmaurice](#) if you need assistance identifying a suitable nominator.

If you have any further questions, please contact [Will Fitzmaurice](#), Earth Institute manager.