

# Research Innovation and Engagement (RIE) Awards

As part of our commitment to fostering a culture of excellence in research, innovation, and engagement, the Durban University of Technology (DUT) has established the Research, Innovation & Engagement Awards to recognise outstanding contributions in these areas. The following guidelines outline the criteria for each category, aligned with our ENVISION2030 strategy. [Click on the links below to access the nomination forms.](#)

## Research Innovation and Engagement (RIE) Award Categories

### Mentorship and Leadership Awards (Stewardship)

Mentorship of students, early-career researchers, or colleagues in research, innovation, or engagement activities.

Leadership roles in research teams, academic departments, or professional organisations.

Promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion in research and academic leadership.

Recognition as a role model and advocate for ethical conduct and integrity in research and scholarship.

Criteria:

1. Active mentorship of students, early-career researchers, or colleagues in research, innovation, or engagement activities.
2. Demonstrated leadership roles in research teams, academic departments, or professional organizations.
3. Promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion within research and academic environments.
4. Recognition as a role model for ethical conduct and integrity in research and scholarship.
5. Number and impact of mentees' achievements and career advancements.
6. Evidence of successful leadership and management in research or academic settings.
7. Contributions to creating inclusive and equitable research or academic environments.
8. Awards, honors, or recognitions received for mentorship and leadership.
9. Engagement in initiatives that promote ethical practices and integrity in research.
10. Feedback from mentees, peers, and colleagues on mentorship effectiveness and leadership qualities.

### Research Excellence Awards (Systems and Processes)

Demonstrated excellence in scholarly research, as evidenced by high-impact publications, patents, or other forms of recognised outputs.

Contribution to advancing knowledge in the respective field of study.

Recognition through awards, honours, or invitations to present research findings at prestigious conferences or events.

Impact of research on addressing societal challenges or advancing the goals of ENVISION2030.

Criteria:

1. Demonstrated excellence in scholarly research, as evidenced by high-impact publications, patents, or other forms of recognised outputs. Number of high-impact publications in peer-reviewed journals.
2. Number of patents filed or granted.
3. Citations and H-index as measures of research impact.
4. Number and quality of research grants received.
5. Contribution to collaborative research projects and interdisciplinary studies.
6. Recognition through awards, honours, or invitations to present research findings at prestigious conferences or events.
7. Awards and honours received for research excellence.
8. Invitations to present at prestigious national and international conferences.
9. Societal impact of research findings, including policy influence and implementation.
10. Alignment of research outcomes with the strategic goals of ENVISION2030.
11. Contribution to the development of innovative solutions addressing societal challenges.

### **Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Awards (Systems)**

Participation in collaborative research projects involving multiple disciplines or fields of study.

Integration of diverse perspectives and methodologies to address complex research questions or societal challenges.

Leadership in interdisciplinary research initiatives or programs.

Contribution to breaking down disciplinary silos and promoting cross-cutting collaboration.

#### **Criteria**

1. Participation in collaborative research projects involving multiple disciplines or fields of study.
2. Integration of diverse perspectives and methodologies to address complex research questions or societal challenges.
3. Leadership in interdisciplinary research initiatives or programs.
4. Contribution to breaking down disciplinary silos and promoting cross-cutting collaboration.
5. Successful acquisition of funding for interdisciplinary research projects.
6. Number and quality of publications resulting from interdisciplinary research.
7. Involvement in organizing interdisciplinary workshops, conferences, or seminars.
8. Development of new methodologies or frameworks that integrate multiple disciplines.
9. Recognition and awards for interdisciplinary research excellence.
10. Evidence of impact on advancing knowledge and solving complex societal issues through interdisciplinary approaches.

### **Alumni Game Changer of the Year (Sustainability)**

This award is given to an alumnus who has demonstrated great commitment and dedication by contributing to the improvement of lives and livelihoods in his/her field. Their contribution is characterised by creative and innovative ideas and/or solutions. Their distinguished achievements have made a significant positive impact and have transformed the landscape of their respective field.

#### **Criteria:**

1. Number and scope of initiatives or projects led by the alumnus that have improved lives and livelihoods.
2. Innovative ideas or solutions developed and implemented by the alumnus.
3. Measurable positive impact on the quad helix partners or industry resulting from the alumnus's contributions.
4. Recognition and awards received for achievements and contributions to their field.
5. Number of people directly or indirectly benefited by the alumnus's work.
6. Documented case studies or success stories highlighting the alumnus's impact.
7. Partnerships or collaborations formed to advance innovative solutions.
8. Media coverage and public recognition of the alumnus's contributions.
9. Feedback from beneficiaries, peers, and stakeholders regarding the alumnus's impact.
10. Long-term sustainability and scalability of the initiatives or solutions implemented by the alumnus.

### **Innovation and Technology Transfer Awards (Society)**

Development and implementation of innovative solutions or technologies with potential societal impact.

Successful commercialisation or transfer of technology to industry partners or the broader community.

Intellectual property protection and licensing agreements.

Contribution to economic development and job creation through innovation and technology transfer initiatives

#### **Criteria**

1. Development and implementation of innovative solutions or technologies with potential societal impact.
2. Successful commercialisation or transfer of technology to industry partners or the broader partners.
3. Intellectual property protection and licensing agreements.
4. Contribution to economic development and job creation through innovation and technology transfer initiatives.

5. Collaboration with industry partners and stakeholders to advance technology transfer.
  6. Demonstrated increase in revenue or market share for commercialised technologies.
  7. Engagement in public-private partnerships to support innovation and technology transfer.
  8. Provision of training and support for entrepreneurs and startups in technology-driven ventures.
  9. Contribution to the sustainability and scalability of innovative technologies.
- Recognition and awards for excellence in innovation and technology transfer activities.

### **Engagement and Outreach Awards (Society)**

Active involvement in community engagement or outreach activities that address local, national, or global challenges.  
Collaboration with community organisations, government agencies, or non-profit entities to promote social change or sustainable development.

Public dissemination of research findings through workshops, seminars, or educational programs.

Contribution to building partnerships and fostering dialogue between academia and society.

Criteria :

1. Active involvement in quad-helix engagement that address local, national, or global challenges.
2. Collaboration with quad-helix organizations, government agencies, or non-profit entities to promote social change or sustainable development.
3. Public dissemination of research findings through workshops, seminars, or educational programs.
4. Contribution to building partnerships and fostering dialogue between academia and society.
5. Measurable impact of engagement activities on partners well-being and development.
6. Innovative approaches to addressing societal issues through engagement and outreach.
7. Recognition and awards for contributions to engagement and outreach.
8. Evidence of sustained and long-term commitment to partnerships.
9. Involvement in co-creating solutions with stakeholders.

Contribution to policy development or advocacy through engagement activities.

### **RIE Impact Awards**

Alignment of research, innovation, and engagement activities with the goals and priorities of ENVISION2030.

Contribution to advancing ENVISION2030 objectives, such as sustainability, social justice, and economic transformation.

Demonstration of measurable impact on society, the environment, or the economy.

Integration of ENVISION2030 principles into research, teaching, and service activities.

Criteria :

1. Alignment of research, innovation, and engagement activities with the goals and priorities of ENVISION2030.
2. Contribution to advancing specific ENVISION2030 objectives, such as sustainability, social justice, and economic transformation.
3. Measurable impact on society, the environment, or the economy resulting from research, innovation, and engagement activities.
4. Integration of ENVISION2030 principles into research methodologies, teaching practices, and service activities.
5. Documentation of how research and innovation address ENVISION2030 strategic priorities.
6. Examples of projects or initiatives that demonstrate alignment with ENVISION2030 goals.
7. Evidence of collaboration with stakeholders to advance ENVISION2030 objectives.
8. Quantitative and qualitative outcomes of activities that reflect the impact on societal, environmental, or economic aspects.
9. Feedback from the stakeholders on the alignment and impact of the activities with ENVISION2030.
10. Recognition or awards received for contributions to ENVISION2030 goals and principles.