What are the PRIME awards?

The Principal’s Research IMpact and Engagement, or PRIME, awards recognise outstanding achievement, innovation and creativity in impact and public engagement with research; celebrating activities with the potential to create economic, social, environmental and cultural impact from research, and engage broad publics, new stakeholders and/or underserved audiences.

The **deadline for applications is Friday 15th November 2019**. All applicants will be invited to attend an afternoon award ceremony and reception on Thursday 12th December at the Riccarton Campus, so please keep this date in your diary.

What is impact?
Impact can be defined as an effect on, change or benefit to society, the environment, culture and the economy. This includes activities, attitudes, awareness, behaviour, capacity, opportunity, performance, policy, practice, process and understanding. The beneficiaries can be from any geographical location; local, regional, national or global.

What is engagement?
Engagement describes the myriad of ways in which the activity and benefits of research can be shared with non-academic communities. Engagement is by definition a two-way process, involving interaction and listening, with the goal of generating mutual benefit.

Examples of impact and engagement

- impacts on curricula and teaching which extend beyond Heriot-Watt University
- research communication through a variety of media
- public engagement with research through festivals, exhibitions, performances, partnerships with arts, heritage and cultural organisations
- engagement with policy-makers
- engagement with business and industry collaborations
- engagement with any other non-academic stakeholder group which has potential for social, economic or cultural impact
- commercialisation of research through spin-outs and licensing
- partnerships with public services including the wider education sector and schools, NHS, local government, government agencies, and other public bodies

We recognise that excellence in research impact and engagement spans a broad range of audiences and types of activity. Applicants are encouraged to include the full breadth of their impact and engagement activity in their submission.

Engaging stakeholders and beneficiaries in original and inventive ways helps reach new audiences. We encourage applications which can demonstrate either impactful long-term collaborations or imaginative approaches that have secured the participation of new beneficiaries and partners.
Award categories and criteria

Pioneer Award
If you are an established researcher at Heriot-Watt University but are new to impact and public engagement, you are encouraged to apply for this award. Applications are also invited from PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and research fellows. Impact and engagement activities should be strongly linked to research conducted at Heriot-Watt University.

Applications could highlight some of the following:

- a strong relationship between the impact and/or engagement activity and the underpinning research
- an active and leading role by the researcher in making impact and/or engagement happen
- a clearly justified set of relevant stakeholders and/or beneficiaries
- evidence of a clearly defined and appropriately resourced plan, including activities and outputs that are timely, appropriate to the scale and objectives of the project, and well-defined
- evidence of the benefits, changes, and/or effects of the activity to or on the research, researcher and/or publics

Established Academic Award
Applications from current Heriot-Watt University academic staff are invited. This excludes PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and research fellows who are encouraged to apply for the Pioneer Award. Impact and engagement activities should be strongly linked to research conducted at Heriot-Watt University.

Applications could highlight some of the following:

- a strong relationship between the impact/engagement activity and the underpinning research
- an active and leading role by the researcher or academic in making impact and/or engagement happen
- clearly justified set of relevant stakeholders and/or beneficiaries
- evidence of a clearly defined and appropriately resourced plan, including activities and outputs which are timely, appropriate to the scale and objectives of the project and well-defined
- evidence of the benefits, changes and/or effects of the activity to the research, researcher and/or publics

Partnership Award
Applications are invited from current Heriot-Watt University research staff and students who have built external partnerships at all career stages.

Applications could highlight some of the following:

- sustainable collaborations and/or partnership building with external bodies
- evidence of the added value and innovation to the activities through an interdisciplinary team with a diverse backgrounds
- evidence of a clearly defined and appropriately resourced plan between team members, including activities and outputs which are timely, appropriate to the scale and objectives of the project and well-defined
Guidance for applicants

- evidence of the benefits, changes and/or effects of the collaborative activity to the research

**Change Maker Award**
The winner of this special award will be chosen by a subset of the Public Engagement Steering Board; it is not open for applications. It will be awarded to a researcher who has made an outstanding contribution to the future of research impact and engagement at Heriot-Watt University.

**Application and award process**

1. Applications must be made using the respective nomination form and submitted by email to hwengage@hw.ac.uk by no later than 4pm on Friday 15th November.
2. Applications can be made for multiple categories.
3. Applicants from previous award years are welcome to apply again with further developed activities. Previous award winners may apply again with new activities, but will not be judged again on the same project.
4. Applications are to be submitted as a word document and named by award title and applicant name “category_surname” e.g. Pioneer_Smith.doc.
5. Together with the application, please submit a head shot of the applicant(s) as well as some pictures / visualisations showcasing the work. These will be used for the award ceremony and any linked promotions of the event.
6. All applicants will be invited to the awards and showcase event on Thursday 12th December where the winners will be announced.
7. Winners may be asked to participate in University-wide and external communications about the PRIME awards.
8. Each winner will be awarded £1,000 to be used for the development and delivery of impact and engagement activities or training.

**Assessment**

Applications will be judged by an interdisciplinary panel including internal and external professional staff, academics and research users. The panel will consider the strength and coherence of each nomination on its own merits.

**Further advice and support**

Please contact the Heriot-Watt Engage team with any queries or for advice on your application.