Guidelines for Rajarata University of Sri Lanka Research Excellence Awards and Vice Chancellor's Awards

Purpose:

These awards are to recognize, appreciate, encourage, and honour the academics in the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (RUSL) who are excelling in research, innovation, and scholarly works. Through these awards, the university expects to motivate the staff members to actively engage in teaching and research activities. Furthermore, these recognitions will create junior staff members to follow, be encouraged, and get involved more in research that will uplift the overall quality and university's ranking nationally and internationally. Moreover, these recognitions will increase and encourage collaborative research activities within and outside the institute. **Sixteen (16) awards** will be presented to the eligible applicants at the university (seven (07) RUSL Excellence Awards) and faculty (nine (09) Vice Chancellor's Awards) levels, as elaborated below.

RUSL Excellence Awards

Lifetime Award

1. RUSL Research Excellence Gold Award

Annual Awards

1. Most Outstanding Senior Researcher
2. Most Outstanding Young Researcher
3. Top Ten Researchers with the highest number of indexed journal articles
4. Top Ten Researchers with the highest H-index
5. Top Ten Researchers with the highest number of citations
6. Best Inventor

Vice Chancellor's Awards at each Faculty and Library

1. Most Outstanding Senior Researcher
2. Most Outstanding Young Researcher
3. Most Outstanding Researcher in Library Academic Staff
4. Top Ten Researchers with the highest number of indexed journal articles
5. Top Ten Researchers with the highest H-index
6. Top Ten Researchers having the highest number of citations
7. Recognition for the indexed articles published in the preceding year
8. Recognition for the patented invention within the preceding year
9. Department having the highest number of indexed journal articles published

- All these awards are subjected to the senate and the council approval. The awards will be presented at the annual awards ceremony organized by the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

- The RUSL Excellence awards (Gold, Senior, Young Researcher, and Best Inventor) and the Vice Chancellor's awards for faculty level (Senior, Young Researcher, and Outstanding Researcher in Library Academic Staff) will comprise a plaque and a certificate. Only a certificate will be given for all other awards.

- Applicants who are 40 years of age or younger as of 31st December of the awarding year would be eligible to apply under the 'Young researcher' category, and those above 40 years would be eligible to apply under the 'Senior researcher' category.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Candidates should be in a permanent RUSL academic position to be eligible except the Vice Chancellor's awards 7 and 8, for which RUSL students (undergraduate or postgraduate), and temporary academic and research staff are also eligible for the award.

2. The affiliations for all components considered for awards should represent RUSL as an affiliation.

Note: In all instances where citation counts are evaluated, only citations of original research articles will be taken into account.

Descriptions and minimum eligibility criteria for individual awards

RUSL Excellence Awards

1. **RUSL Research Excellence Gold Award**:

   The RUSL Research Excellence Gold Award is the most prestigious research award from the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The awardee will be able to receive this award only once in their academic carrier at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The applicant's lifetime research/scholarly work with RUSL affiliations is considered for this award.

   To be eligible for this award, the applicant should have at least twenty (20) original research articles published in indexed[1] journals. The applicant should be the first author of at least five of those articles.

RUSL Excellence Awards – Annual awards

1. **RUSL Excellence Awards for Most Outstanding Senior Researcher**:

   Eligibility criteria: Six (06) original research articles published in indexed[1] journals within the preceding three years. The applicant should be the first/senior/corresponding author of at least one of those articles.

2. **RUSL Excellence Awards for Most Outstanding Young Researcher**:

   Eligibility criteria: Four (04) original research articles published in indexed[1] journals within the preceding three years. The applicant should be the first/corresponding author of at least one of those articles.

3. **RUSL Excellence Awards for the Top Ten Researchers with the highest number of indexed journal articles:**

   Eligibility criteria: Two (02) original research articles published in indexed[1] journals within the preceding year.

4. **RUSL Excellence Awards for the Top Ten Researchers with the highest H-index:**

   Eligibility criteria: Google Scholar h-index of two (02) for the articles published in the preceding three (03) years.

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[1] Web of Science Master Journal List (https://mjl.clarivate.com/home)

5. **RUSL Excellence Awards for the Top Ten Researchers with the highest citations:**

   Eligibility criteria: 20 citations for the articles published in the preceding three (03) years.

6. **RUSL Excellence Awards for Best Inventor**:

   Eligibility criteria: At least one national or international patent for inventions within the preceding year. Priority will be given to international patents.

Vice Chancellor's Awards at each Faculty and Library

1. **Vice Chancellor's Award for Most Outstanding Senior Researcher**:

   Eligibility criteria: Four (04) original research articles published in indexed[1] journals within the preceding three years. The applicant should be the first/senior/corresponding author of at least one of those articles.

2. **Vice Chancellor's Award for Most Outstanding Young Researcher**:

   Eligibility criteria: Three (03) original research articles published in indexed[1] journals within the preceding three years.

3. **Vice Chancellor's Award for the Most Outstanding Researcher in Library Academic Staff:**

   Eligibility criteria: One (01) original research article published in indexed[1] journal within the preceding year.

4. **Vice Chancellor's Awards for the Top Ten Researchers with the highest number of indexed journal articles:**

   Eligibility criteria: Two (02) original research articles published in indexed[1] journals within the preceding year.

5. **Vice Chancellor's Awards for the Top Ten Researchers with the highest H-index:**

   Eligibility criteria: Google scholar h-index of two (02) for the articles published in the preceding three (03) years.

6. **Vice Chancellor's Awards for the Top Ten Researchers with the highest citations:**

   Eligibility criteria: 10 citations for the articles published in the preceding three (03) years.

7. **Vice Chancellor's Awards for recognition of indexed articles published in the preceding year**

   Eligibility criteria: One (01) original research article published in indexed[1] journal within the preceding year.

8. **Vice Chancellor's Awards for the recognition of the patented invention within the preceding year**:

   Eligibility criteria: One (01) national/international patent for inventions within the preceding year. Applicants selected for the RUSL Excellence Award for Best Inventor, will not be considered under this category.

9. **Vice Chancellor's Awards for the department having the highest number of indexed journal articles published within the preceding year**:

   Eligibility criteria: Two (02) indexed Journal articles with the department member as the lead (first), corresponding or senior author.

10. Applicant(s) are required to get minimum marks for each award category as below to be eligible for the proposed awards;

Award	Minimum marks
RUSL Research Excellence Gold Award	500
RUSL Excellence Awards for the Most Outstanding Senior Researcher	80
RUSL Excellence Awards for the Most Outstanding Young Researcher	40
RUSL Excellence Award for the Most Outstanding Inventor	20
Vice Chancellor's Award for the Most Outstanding Senior Researcher	50
Vice Chancellor's Award for the Most Outstanding Young Researcher	20
Vice chancellor's Award for the Most Outstanding Researcher in Library Academic Staff	20

11. To be eligible for the awards, applicants should create Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science (Previously Publons) accounts to track the evidence for their scholarly works.

12. Award winners of the "Most Outstanding" categories will not be eligible for the awards in the same category for the next three consecutive years.

General Application Procedure and Selection Procedure

- The awarding criteria will consider the proceeding three years except for award numbers 3 and 6 under the RUSL Excellence awards and award numbers 4,7,8 and 9 under the Vice Chancellor's awards. When awarded annually. e.g., the awarding criteria 2025 will consider only the work done in research, innovation, scholarly and creative categories from 01st January 2022 to 31st December 2024. The citations can also be claimed only for the papers published in the three years mentioned above.

- All the applicants should submit a self-prepared application for which the template is provided herewith, a self-evaluation report (Annexure 1 for the relevant category), and all the supporting materials to the committee appointed by the Senate, in **PDF** format (Digital copy). Any marks claimed without evidence will not be counted.

- The Senate-appointed committee should include one senior staff with experience in research (by considering the staff members who have published in indexed peer-reviewed journal articles, have experience in scholarly works, community contribution, and received grants, etc.) among staff members from each faculty.

- To avoid conflict of interest, the relevant faculty nominee in the committee appointed by the senate will not participate during the evaluation process of applications submitted from the faculty he/she represents.

- Call for applications will be published each year in the university and on the faculty websites.

- Publication(s) with predatory journals and vanity press listed in "Beall's List (https://beallslist.net/)" will not be considered for any award, and marks will not be allocated for such work at any category.

- Preprint version and similar versions of publication(s) will not be considered for any award, and marks will not be allocated for such work at any category.

- Any researcher who has been found guilty of research misconduct, unethical research/ publication or involved in fraudulent research within the period considered for the award will not be eligible to apply.

- The applicants eligible for both the RUSL Excellence Awards and the Vice Chancellor's Awards can submit their applications and get selected if they have enough marks for both types of awards. Suitable Applicants can apply for multiple awards with separate self-evaluation reports with the applications.

- By any chance, if two applicants get equal marks, both applicants will receive the awards in the same year.
- Whenever relevant, the preceding three years will include the three years immediately before the award year. e.g., the awarding criteria for 2025 will consider papers published from 01st January 2022 to 31st December 2024.

Self-Assessment and Marks Allocation for RUSL Excellence Gold Award, Awards for Most Outstanding Senior and Young researcher; Most Outstanding Researcher in Library Academic Staff.

Components		Marking Scheme	Total Marks
Publications Author contribution: if more than one author: divided by the number of authors. Additional 20% for the first author. And additional 20% for corresponding author/s.	In peer-reviewed, Indexed articles in the recognized indexing services*	7 marks / (No limits) paper each *published in indexed reputed databases* + Add additional marks to the final mark based on SJR Q1-20% Q2-10% Q3- 5%	
	In peer-reviewed Indexed articles in the journals indexed in indexing services other than the list mentioned in *.	5 marks /paper *Published in peer-reviewed indexed.* Maximum 15 articles	
	In peer-reviewed non-indexed journals, which publish at least two issues per year	4 marks/paper (*maximum 10 articles*)	
	In peer-reviewed non-indexed journals, which do not publish at least two issues per year	2 marks/paper each (*maximum 10 articles*)	
Presentation at conferences (national or	Published as an Abstract/Extended abstract	0.5 marks (*maximum 10 marks*)	

international)/ Professional meetings etc. (Percentage mark allocation as above except the corresponding author when appropriate) Divided by the number of authors	Published as a full paper	1 mark /paper (*maximum 10 papers*)	
Book Chapters (academic/ technical relevant to the subject area) Divided by the number of authors Additional 20% for the first author.	Published by a reputed publisher	3 marks each (*maximum 10 chapters*)	
	By an author	2 marks each (*maximum 10 chapters*)	
Books, Edited Books and/texts books/translated books published in the area of expertise by reputed publishers with ISBN and should be publicly available Dived by the number of authors Additional 20% for the first author.	Published by a reputed publisher	5 marks each (*maximum 10 books*)	
	By an author	3 marks each (*maximum 10 books*)	
Monographs Dived by the number of authors Additional 20% for the first author.	Published by a reputed journal or publisher	1 mark each (*Maximum 10 monographs*)	
Citation (only articles published in the preceding 3 years)	Based on Google Scholar, Scopus, and Web of Science accounts	0.5 marks each (*No Limit*)	
Reviewing and Editorial activities			
	Grant reviewer (National and International grants excluding	3 marks each (*maximum 30 marks*)	

	RUSL) and other invited review with evidence		
	Member of Editorial Board/Guest Editor in International Indexed Journals* (based on Web of Science and/or evidence)	5 marks for each journal (*No Limit*)	
	Member of Editorial Board/Guest Editor in National Journals	2 marks each journal (*No Limit*)	
	Journal article reviewer (based on Web of Science and/or evidence)	1 mark for each journal (*No Limit*)	
Awards (RUSL Awards will not be considered)	Excellence Awards at National or International level (CVCD awards, etc.)	10 marks each (*No Limit*)	
	Presidential Awards for scientific publication (awarded year will be considered, not the year of publication)	8 marks each (*No Limit*)	
	NRC merit awards for scientific publication (awarded year will be considered, not the year of publication)	6 marks each (*No Limit*)	
	Recognized international/national awards for research, conferences, meetings. (If the Award listed several names, it should be divided by the number of authors)	2 marks each (*No Limit*)	
Orations	**Orations/ Keynote Addresses** in national, international research symposia/ conferences (guest speeches/ plenary lectures/ seminar lectures etc. will not be considered)	2 marks each (*No Limit*)	
Fellowship (s)	Fellowship from a	10 marks each	

[should receive while working at the RUSL]	**Professional Body** (Commonwealth, Australia awards, JSPS, Japanese Foundation, IEEE, Fulbright, OWSD, etc.) (Excluding Postgraduate fellowships)	(*No Limit*)	
National and International patents (add 4 marks if the RUSL is the direct beneficiary)	National patent	10 marks (*No Limit*)	
	International patent	20 marks (*No Limit*)	
	Commercialized patents (National or International)	10 marks additional (*No Limit*)	
National and international certificate for inventors	National certificate	2 marks (*No Limit*)	
	International certificate	3 marks (*No Limit*)	
Reports and newspaper articles	Report to intergovernmental agency/international agency/government agency/INGOs or NGO or private agency/EIA reports etc. with evidence of receipt of acknowledgements	4 marks for each (*maximum 20* marks)	
	Newspaper articles (will be divided by number of authors)	1 mark (*maximum 5* marks)	
Research Grants (point claim can be as a Principal supervisor/Team Leader (or country leader in multi-country projects) 100%a Co-Principal supervisor 50% and Co-supervisor or team member 25%) (Name should be included in the original grant award/ agreement or document) (RUSL research grants	Total grant amount over 50 million LKR	15 marks (*No Limit*)	
	Total grant amount 10 - 50 million LKR	10 marks (*No Limit*)	
	Total grant amount 5 - 10 million LKR	5 marks (*No Limit*)	
	Total grant amounts up to 5 million LKR or other personal grants	2 marks each (*No Limit*)	

will not be considered)			
Postgraduate Supervision (Supervision of PhD, M.Phil., or other postgraduate theses and dissertations (Only for each candidate who has completed the degree)) 60% for principal supervisor, 40% each for co-supervisors	PhD. Supervision	4 marks /dissertation (*maximum 20 marks*)	
	M.Phil. /M.D. (research-based degree) Supervision	3 marks /dissertation (*maximum 15 marks*)	
	M.Sc./M.A. Supervision	2 marks /dissertation (*maximum 10 marks*)	
	The postgraduate master's degrees of less than 2 years' duration	1 mark /dissertation (*maximum 10 marks*)	
Thesis Examine	PhD. thesis Examiner	3 marks /dissertation (*maximum 15 marks*)	
	M.Phil. thesis Examiner	2 marks /dissertation (*maximum 10 marks*)	
Creative works	Relevant to the subject area	5 marks each (*maximum 25 marks*)	
	Originally created poem, songs, lyrics, and music composed, drama play, films produced, reviews or appreciation by authorizing body or person	3 marks each (*maximum 15 marks*)	

* Science Citation Index (SCI), Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), Elsevier publishers/Scopus, PubMed, MEDLINE, Emerging Source Citation Index (ESCI), Social Science Citation Index®, Arts and Humanities Citation Index®, Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA), Library, Information Science and Technology Abstracts (LISTA), Education Resource Information Centre (ERIC), Engineering Index.