

# URC Call for Nominations

## 2026 UCT COLLEGE OF FELLOWS YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD

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**Closing date: Tuesday, 30 June 2026**

Nominations are invited for the 2026 UCT College of Fellows Young Researcher Award.

### PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

The Young Researcher Award is offered annually in recognition of **outstanding** scholarly work by young academics who have made significant independent contributions to research in their field. Awards of approximately R30,000 each are awarded each year.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR NOMINEES

Nominations may be submitted by any UCT academic staff member. Nominators may nominate themselves.

The criteria for nominees are:

- Permanent and T2 contract UCT academic staff; and
- Under the age of 40 years. (Where nominees are aged 40 or older, a clear written motivation outlining exceptional circumstances must be included as part of the nomination and will be assessed by the selection committee.)

### NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominators must submit:

- The full CV of the nominee, including publications or equivalent scholarly outputs;
- A statement of the nominee's scholarly accomplishments (one page); and
- Contact details of three individuals (and two alternatives) who may be requested to provide referee reports.
  - One referee must be international, and only one referee may be from UCT.
  - Please motivate your choice of referees briefly.
  - Referees should not be closely connected to the nominee (e.g. current or former PhD supervisors). Any prior relationship should be disclosed.
  - Nominees must obtain the prior consent of all proposed referees before submitting their names and contact details.
- Individuals who have previously received the College of Fellows Young Researcher Award are not eligible for re-nomination. The award is intended as a once-off recognition of scholarly excellence.

- Nominees who were previously unsuccessful should wait at least two years from the date of their initial application before submitting a new nomination. This interval is meant to allow sufficient time for their research output to demonstrate meaningful improvement at a level commensurate with the expectations of this award.

Nominations should be submitted via email to [researchfunding@uct.ac.za](mailto:researchfunding@uct.ac.za) on or before the closing date **(Tuesday, 30 June 2026)**, with the subject **YRAC 2026 nomination**. It is the responsibility of the nominator to ensure that all required documentation is complete and submitted by the closing date. Incomplete or late nominations will not be considered.

The Young Researcher Award is a competitive distinction recognising research excellence and scholarly impact. Submission of a nomination does not guarantee the conferral of an award. The committee to select the Young Researcher Award will consist of current UCT Fellows (nominated by the UCT College of Fellows) who represent a broad range of academic disciplines and will be chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. The awards will be regarded as final, and there will be no appeal process.