

Call for nominations Research Award 2027

The Research Award is the annual scientific award funded by University Fund Wageningen (UFW) to honour excellent researchers at Wageningen University & Research (WUR).

The Research Award is organized by Wageningen Graduate Schools and we hereby call for nominations. The Research Award is awarded in four categories:

- A. Research paper of the year
- B. Team effort of the year
- C. Transdisciplinary research of the year
- D. Supervisor of the year

The following conditions and criteria apply to nominations:

A. Research paper of the year

Criteria:

- 1) Creativity and originality
- 2) Scientific rigor
- 3) Scientific and/or societal impact

Conditions:

- The paper has been published in the Academic Year 2025-2026 (between 1 September 2025 – 31 August 2026)
- The nominee shall be the first author of the paper
- The first author has a WUR affiliation on the paper
- Shared first authors can only be nominated together if they both have a WUR affiliation on the paper. If one of the shared first author does not have a WUR affiliation, then only the author with the affiliation can be nominated
- The nominee must be an early career scientist
- The nominated paper is not a review

B. Team effort of the year

Criteria:

- 1) Need for and added value of the team
- 2) Synergy of the team, quality of the collaboration
- 3) Team performance, quality of the output
- 4) The activity is special and not business as usual

Conditions:

- The nominated activity and team shall be coordinated by a WUR researcher.

C. Transdisciplinary research of the year

Criteria:

- 1) Involvement of stakeholders
- 2) Involvement of different scientific disciplines
- 3) Degree of interaction between scientific and practical insights

Conditions:

- The nominated research activity shall be transdisciplinary, i.e. a wicked problem that originates from society before working with insights from different disciplines and practice to achieve integration. The integration of academic insights and insights from practice then serves a purpose to expediate the implementation of solutions for a complex problem from practice. The process to come to integration is as such transformative in nature.
- Nominated activity should be coordinated by a WUR researcher

D. Supervisor of the year

Criteria:

- 1) Mentorship
- 2) Leadership/vision
- 3) Promotion of Career Readiness Competencies (NACE)
- 4) Professionalism
- 5) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
- 6) Overall Impact
- 7) Percentage of supervisees that supports the nomination

Conditions:

- The nominated supervisors can be a supervisor of PhD/EngD candidates, postdocs or senior researchers.
- The nominated researchers should have a WUR affiliation at the time of the nomination.

Who can nominate

For all categories all scientific staff members, including PhD/EngD candidates, are invited to nominate persons/teams. For categories A, B and C, self-nomination is also possible. It is allowed to resubmit nominations for categories B, C and D that did not win.

How to submit a nomination

Nominations must be submitted via [this form](#). The deadline for nominations is the **28th of October 2026**. The nomination should contain a nomination letter with a description of the output, team, activities and/or person and the arguments for the nomination linked to the criteria. The jury will be diverse and consists of scientists with different backgrounds, so please make sure that your texts are accessible.

Procedure

Jury judgement: A diverse jury for each of the categories consisting of professors and non-professors and for the supervisor PhD candidates and postdocs will select a shortlist of nominees.

Popular votes: To involve the employees, doctoral candidates and students of WUR in the selection process, the shortlisted nominees (for A, B and C) or nominators (for D) for each category are asked to present their work/vision during the WGS activity preceding the Dies Natalis on 4 March 2027. All employees, doctoral candidates and students of WUR present can then vote for their preferred nomination in each category.

The Research Award will be conferred during the Dies Natalis on 4 March 2027.