

# 2025 Mater Research Prizes for Research Achievement and Sisters of Mercy Medal Guidelines

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**Applications open on Thursday, 18 September 2025 and close at 5 pm on Monday, 13 October 2025.**

**Late applications will not be accepted.**

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose

Since its inception in 1998, Mater Research has annually recognised researchers, support staff and others who have made significant contributions to the Institute through the Sisters of Mercy Medals and other prizes.

These awards are announced and presented at an annual event that highlights our achievements to Mater stakeholders, including Mater staff, The University of Queensland, Mater Foundation and community representatives.

# 2 Eligibility

## 2.1 General eligibility requirements

Mater Research prioritises equity, diversity, and inclusion in its culture and research activities. The design of the prizes associated with these nominations should demonstrate that, where appropriate, equity, diversity, and inclusion opportunities have been considered.

Mater Research Prize nominations are subject to the following general eligibility requirements:

- Nominees must be employed by Mater Misericordiae Limited, including any of its wholly owned Ministries (including Mater Research Limited), or by The University of Queensland in the MRI-UQ organisational unit, or be a Mater Research Higher Degree Research Student whose principal advisor meets these criteria.
- Senior Managers or members of the Executive team at Mater Research are not eligible to be nominated.
- Previous recipients are not eligible to be nominated for the same medal or prize unless exceptional circumstances justify new contributions to the organisation after receipt of the original medal or prize.
- Nominees can be nominated for more than one Mater Research Prize where they meet the specific eligibility criteria.
- All nominees are expected to attend the Mater Research Mater Research Showcase on 14 November 2025

## 2.2 Award-specific eligibility requirements.

In addition to the above, specific eligibility requirements for each award/medal are as follows:

Prize	Description	Specific Eligibility Criteria
Mater Research Higher Degree Biomedical Student Prize	The Mater Research Higher Degree Student Prize (Biomedical) is awarded to a Biomedical Researcher who made an exceptional contribution through their research to discover new knowledge central to the Mater Mission, translate knowledge into practice, and integrate research into improved health care and education practices across Mater and the broader community. Service to the Mater Research community over the last 12 months will also be considered.	<p>The nominee must be enrolled or studying towards a PhD or MPhil Degree</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p>The nominee must have successfully passed Confirmation of Candidature (R1) <b>AND</b></p> <p>The nominee must have been studying at Mater at least 6 months before application.</p>

Prize	Description	Specific Eligibility Criteria
Mater Research Higher Degree Clinical Student Prize	The Mater Research Higher Degree Student Prize (Clinical) is awarded to a Clinical Researcher who made an exceptional contribution through their research to discover new knowledge central to the Mater Mission, translate knowledge into practice, and integrate research into improved health care and education practices across Mater and the broader community. Service to the Mater Research community over the last 12 months will also be considered.	The nominee must be enrolled or studying towards a PhD or MPhil Degree <b>AND</b> The nominee must have successfully passed Confirmation of Candidature (R1) <b>AND</b> The nominee must have been studying at Mater at least 6 months prior to application.
Mater Research Early Career Researcher Prize	The Mater Research Early Career Researcher (ECR) Prize is awarded to an individual in recognition of their exceptional work undertaken at Mater Research toward the discovery of new knowledge central to the Mater Mission, translation of knowledge into practice and/or integration of research into improved health care and education practises across Mater and the broader community. Service to the Mater Research community over the last 12 months will also be considered. The nominees will be promising ECRs with the potential to become productive, independent investigators in academic research.	A Postdoctoral Researcher who has an academic appointment at Research Officer Level 1 or 2 (aka Academic Level A or B) and is within eight-years' full-time equivalent of the award of their PhD (adjusted for career disruptions, e.g., family leave or carers leave); and who is not yet an independent group leader within Mater Research <b>OR</b> A clinician-researcher within ten-years of obtaining their most senior clinical training and who does not yet hold a leadership position.
Sister Michaelleen Ahern Medal	Is awarded for significant contribution to Mater Research in student supervision.	The nominee must hold a position at Mater or MRI-UQ with at least three years' experience supervising, mentoring, and/or training postgraduate students with a track record of high-quality performance relative to opportunity. Evidence of sustained performance over time is expected.
Sister Eileen Pollard Medal	Is awarded for incorporating Mater Research-related research into clinical care provision for an individual who has excelled in relation to the opportunity to conduct clinical research.	This medal is for outstanding individuals across research, clinical practice and everyday operations.

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Prize	Description	Specific Eligibility Criteria
Sister Regis Mary Dunne Medal	This award is given to an outstanding Mater researcher who has made an outstanding contribution(s) aligned with the Mater Research Strategy. Achievement should have been made while at Mater Research and will be assessed relative to opportunity.	This medal is for outstanding individuals across research
Sister Madonna Josey Medal	This award is given for an outstanding contribution to Mater Research to a professional staff member who has made a significant contribution to the operations of Mater Research	This medal is for outstanding individuals across research support services, clinical practice and everyday operations.
Sister Pauline Mary Purtill Medal	This award is given for an outstanding contribution to Mater Research to an individual who has significantly contributed to conduct, support, and success of Mater Clinical Trials.	This medal is aimed at outstanding individuals across the Mater Clinical Trials service.
Sister Mary Athanasius Reardon Medal	This award is given for an outstanding individual for their significant contribution to Mater Research as a Research Assistant or professional staff member.	This medal is aimed at an outstanding contribution by a Research Assistant or similar role across Mater Research.

## 3 Application Process

### 3.1 How to apply

Prize and Sisters of Mercy Medal nominations must be made via the online forms. The link to these forms will be distributed via email notification from the Mater Research Executive. It will be made available online on the Mater Research SharePoint page and via email request to the Mater Research Engagement and Grants team ([research.grants@mater.uq.edu.au](mailto:research.grants@mater.uq.edu.au)).

Acknowledgement of receipt will be provided when the Mater Research Engagement and Grants team has received the nomination. Please ensure your contact details are correctly provided in the form and note that your nomination cannot be changed once submitted.

**Nominations must be submitted by the advertised closing date.**

**To ensure fairness to all applicants, incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.**

## 3.2 Application timeline

An approximate time frame for the application process is outlined in the table below:

Description	Dates
Applications Open	18 September 2024
Applications Close	13 October 2025 (close of business)
Review of Applications	Completed by 29 October 2025
Advice to Nominees (Under Embargo)	3 November 2025
Announcement and Presentation of Winners	14 November 2025

## 3.3 Prize notification

An official notification letter will be sent to all nominees advising them of the outcome of their nominations.

**All nominees are expected to attend the Mater Research Showcase on Friday 14 November 2025.**

# 4 Assessment Process and Selection Criteria

## 4.1 Review of Applications

As per the general eligibility requirement (2.1), previous recipients are not eligible for the same Medal or Prize.

All nominations will be assessed and ranked against the Selection Criteria applicable to the specific Research Prize or Sisters of Mercy Medal, subject to a review of eligibility and integrity requirements.

The nominations will be assessed on the examples and evidence provided by the nominator on the nomination form explaining why the nominee deserves the specific medal or prize.

The Review Panel will consist of biomedical and clinical researchers with diverse representation from all Research Programs and Mater Research operational or support staff selected by the Mater Research Executive.

All Review Panel members will receive the prize and medal nominations, a scoring sheet and the Selection Criteria.

Panel members will be required to declare conflicts of interest regarding each nomination. Any Member with a significant conflict will be removed from the scoring and ranking of those nominations.

If necessary, third-party nominators may be contacted by telephone or email to clarify aspects of the nomination to the Review Panel.

## 5 Mandatory Nomination Documentation

Please check each prize's individual assessment criteria before applying and ensure the appropriate supporting documentation is submitted with the nomination.

### 5.1 Mater Research Prize Nominations Supporting Documents

The following documents must be included with each nomination and should address the following items.

#### **Mater Research Higher Degree Biomedical and Clinical Student Prizes**

- Recommendation letter from the Principal Advisor (Nominator) (max. 1 page)
- A 3-page CV, which includes a list of all publications (and identification of which publications are Mater-affiliated) and a short publication metric summary statement.
- Prize nomination form addressing the nominee's:
  - research achievements,
  - contribution to the community (Mater Foundation and greater community),
  - career disruptions and equity, diversity and inclusion considerations.

#### **Mater Research Early Career Researcher Prize**

- Prize nomination form addressing the nominees:
  - research achievements,
  - contribution to the community (Mater Foundation and greater community) and
  - career disruptions and equity, diversity and inclusion considerations.
- Abridged CV (max three pages) including a list of all publications (with identification of Mater-affiliated publications), a short publication metric overview and a short abstract style summary of key research outputs.
- Letter of Support from the Nominator, or in the case of self-nomination, direct supervisor (max one page) addressing the following selection criteria:
  - Innovation and creativity of the research.
  - Research productivity at Mater Research, as evidenced by publications, presentations, etc.
  - Leadership within their research team.
  - Track record of instigating collaborations.
  - Career disruptions or information relative to opportunity
  - Academic distinction, such as awards or other recognition for their postdoctoral research.
  - Overall contribution to Mater Research, such as service on committees, assistance with events, etc.
  - Significance of the nominee's work to the research field and/or its clinical impact.

The Mater Research **Sisters of Mercy Medals** will be assessed on examples provided by the nominator on the application form explaining why the nominee deserves the specific medal.

## 6 Funding and Terms and Conditions

### 6.1 Funding Allocation

The total funding allocation for the Mater Research Prizes for Research Achievements is \$3,000. Sisters of Mercy Medal winners do not receive a monetary prize.

Prize	Nomination Type	Prize
Mater Research Higher Degree Research (HDR) Biomedical Student Prize	Third-party or self-nomination	\$1,000 to be used for direct research costs
Mater Research Higher Degree Research (HDR) Clinical Student Prize	Third-party or self-nomination	\$1,000 to be used for direct research costs
Mater Research Early Career Researcher (ECR) Prize	Third-party or self-nomination	\$1,000 to be used for direct research costs
Sister Michaelleen Ahern Medal	Third-party nomination	Medal
Sister Eileen Pollard Medal	Third-party nomination	Medal
Sister Regis Mary Dunne Medal	Third-party nomination	Medal
Sister Madonna Josey Medal	Third-party nomination	Medal
Sister Pauline Mary Purfill Medal	Third-party nomination	Medal
Sister Mary Athanasius Reardon Medal	Third-party nomination	Medal

### 6.2 Terms and Conditions

The Research Prizes are subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Funding will be made available from 01 January 2026 and must be expended before 31 December 2026.
- The Mater Research Grants Team administers all monetary prizes.
- Research Prizes will be managed internally and used to offset direct research costs, including publication costs, training, and conference attendance.
- The Prize money is to be used for the purposes specified in these guidelines. Requests for changes related to using funds must be provided in writing to the Research Engagement and Grants Team, who will seek approval from the Mater Research Executive.
- Any publications or media/marketing publicity arising from research supported by the prize must appropriately acknowledge this funding support from Mater Research and Mater Foundation in compliance with the relevant Mater Research policies and procedures.
- The Prize recipient must participate in public events on request (e.g., Mater Foundation events) to promote research.
- In the event that an applicant fails to comply with these conditions, Mater Research reserves the right to withdraw the prize and request that the awarded amount be returned immediately.
- Prize funds cannot be transferred to any other team members, and in the case of employment cessation, secondment, or other disruptions must be relinquished.



## 7 Further Information

Further information regarding the Mater Research Sisters of Mercy Medals or Mater Research Prizes for Research Achievements may be obtained from the Mater Research Engagement and Grants Team:

- Email: [research.grants@mater.uq.edu.au](mailto:research.grants@mater.uq.edu.au)
- Phone: +61 7 3443 7277