**Guidance notes: The Michael K. O’Rourke PGR Best Publication Awards 2024/25**

**What is the purpose of the award?**

The award recognises outstanding achievement in the publication of a postgraduate researcher’s (PGR’s) research.

**Who can make a nomination?**

* Nominations can be made by a PGR’s lead or co-supervisor.

**What are the criteria for the award?**

* The PGR must be the major contributor (first or only author) to the publication.
* The PGR must be a registered student at the University in June 2025.
* The paper must have been accepted for publication to be eligible for nomination. However, it does not need to have been published at the time of nomination. In this case, supervisors should mark it as being ‘in press’ on the nomination form.
* The date of submission (online, in print or in press) must be after 01 January 2024.
* The date of submission (online, in print or in press) must be before the PGRs final examination.
* The nominations will be judged based on:
  1. The significance of the PGR’s contribution to the paper.
  2. Where similar levels of PGR contribution exist, the next criteria should be the extent of original research contribution of the paper. The extent of PGR contribution and the originality of the research should be made clear in the supervisor’s statement of support.
* Published software and software routines will be considered for the award.

**How do I make a nomination?**

* Nominations must be made on the standard nomination form which can be found [here](https://uobasops.formstack.com/forms/the_michael_k_o_rourke_best_publication_award_2025).

Please include an electronic link to the publication on the Nomination Form, if available. If no electronic link is available, please attach a PDF of the article when submitting the nomination form.

The supervisor statement should include:

Explanation of the extent of the PGR’s contribution to the publication.

Explanation of the research significance of the paper.

Comment on the originality of the research.

Deadline for submission of the fully completed Nomination Form is **28th April 2024.**

**What Happens Next?**

The forms will be judged by College panels before being forwarded to the University Graduate School, where a University level judging panel will approve the winner from each College. The winners will be announced at the University Graduate School Awards Event in June.

If you have any questions about the process, please email [graduateschool@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:graduateschool@contacts.bham.ac.uk).