

Open Research Award

Introduction

The Open Research Award will recognise and reward researchers who have used Open Research practices to make their research more accessible, transparent or reproducible, and who can demonstrate understanding of the principles and aims of Open Research (as specified in the [University position statement on Open Research](#)).

The Award is open to both University of Surrey staff and Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs), who may apply either as individuals or as teams. Application is by means of a short abstract describing the research done, with a particular focus on how Open Research practices have been used in carrying out the research.

Four shortlisted applicants will be invited to present their research as a short talk during the University of Surrey Annual Open Research Culture Event (to be held on the University of Surrey campus, 31st January 2024). All valid entries will be given an opportunity to be published on the University website as Open Research case studies and will be promoted in the University's Open Research communications (e.g. Surrey Net, NetNews, Social media, Doctoral College communications, and media outlets such as THE and University Business). Additionally, the first 30 valid applications will be eligible to collect a University of Surrey Open Research mug and Open Research notebook at the University of Surrey Open Research Culture event.

The winning talk selected by the audience during the Open Research Culture Annual Event will receive a prize of £250. The winner will be announced at the Annual Open Research Culture Event (to be held on the University of Surrey campus, 31st January 2024) after presentations have been given and votes have been counted.

The closing date for applications is 1st December 2023.

The Award is administered by the Surrey Open Research Working Group. The Award panel is chaired by Prof Emily Farran.

How to apply

Members of the University of Surrey staff and PGRs can apply for the Award, either as individuals or as teams.

Applications should be submitted using the [application form](#). An abstract of no more than 300 words in length should include a discussion of the use of one or more Open Research practices in the conduct of research and/or communication of outputs to achieve specific research aims or solve particular problems. Applicants should use the [Open Research objectives, practices and examples](#) (below) to identify suitable subjects for their case study.

We encourage the submission of talks that explore the challenges and difficulties of making open and transparent choices as well as those that celebrate positive experiences and successful outcomes. We

are looking for candid accounts of researchers' motivations for making (or not making) open and transparent choices, which offer reasoned assessments of the pros and cons of being open and transparent, and are honest about where things didn't work or could have been done differently.

The proposed talk should cover the points listed below.

- Introduction, providing a brief description of the research conducted;
- What Open Research practices were used and why;
- What barriers or challenges were encountered, and how these were handled;
- What benefits were realised, and for whom, as a result of using the Open Research practices;
- What lessons have been learnt from the experience;
- Conclusion, summarising the main take-away message.

Applications will be assessed for relevance and fit to these guidelines. Successful applications will be interesting and substantial. Valid entries will have an opportunity to publish an Open Research case study and will be used in University communications, therefore they must be suitable for this purpose. The example(s) discussed should be considered in terms of their ultimate benefits, i.e. not just for researchers themselves, but for other beneficiaries (other research users, industrial stakeholders, members of the public, etc.). Marks will be given for talks that are specific about benefits and beneficiaries, e.g. 'as a result of making this dataset open this group of researchers opened dialogue with us, and we have subsequently collaborated on this paper'. Successful applications will give a clear account of why Open Research practices were used and why specific choices were made: what aims were intended or problems were to be solved; what determined the choice of specific tools or methods. Where relevant, it should engage with and explore the challenges and difficulties of making open and transparent choices. Marks may be given for candid accounts of researchers' motivations for making (or not making) open and transparent choices, which offer reasoned assessments of the pros and cons of being open and transparent, and are honest about where things didn't work or could have been done differently.

Open Research objectives, practices and examples

Objectives

Applicants should describe activities that align to one or more of the following Open Research objectives:

- making the outputs of research, including publications, data, software and other research materials **freely accessible**;
- using online tools and services to increase the **transparency** of research processes and methodologies;
- making scientific research more **reproducible** by increasing the amount and quality of information placed on the public record;
- using alternative models of publication and peer review to make the **dissemination** and **certification** of research faster and more transparent;
- using open **collaborative** methods and tools to increase efficiency and widen participation in research.

Practices

The case study should describe one or more open practices. Examples are listed below.

- using publication under an open licence to communicate research outputs, which may include publications, data, software code, and web resources;
- providing an open peer review of a paper submitted under a formal peer review process managed by a publisher;
- creating a public pre-registration of a study design or publishing a study as a registered report;
- depositing data or software in an open repository;
- incorporating open and participatory methods into the design and conduct of research, e.g. by using open notebook-based methods or creating a project using a 'citizen science' online platform;
- introducing Open Research concepts and practices into teaching and learning;
- creating new tools or technologies to facilitate Open Research practices, e.g. for combining or repurposing datasets and other research outputs from different locations or disciplines, or for mining content;
- undertaking activities to develop the environment for Open Research, e.g. by engaging in high-profile communications, by causing a journal to adopt pro-Open Research policies, or by participating in community initiatives to develop data or metadata standards.

Case study examples

These are some examples of suitable subjects for a case study (also see [existing Surrey Open Research case studies](#)):

- A dataset or software source code created by you has been made openly available and subsequently re-used by researchers or other end-users, e.g., to inform policy making or develop services or products;
- You are a researcher who has created an open web resource and consider the practicalities and challenges of sustaining long-term access and usability;
- You conduct qualitative research exploring sensitive issues and discuss the ethical and practical challenges of sharing data collected from participants;
- You have developed a new software tool to facilitate Open Research, e.g., to combine or repurpose datasets from disparate sources;
- You have participated in a community group to develop data or metadata standards and tools for your discipline;
- In your teaching you have introduced students to Open Research principles and practices, e.g., by setting replication study assignments.

Rules

1. Researchers of all levels and registered PGR students are eligible to submit entries. Entries should be submitted using the [application form](#). The closing date for applications is 1st December 2023.

2. Entries may be submitted as individuals or as teams. Team entries must be submitted by one named individual who will be the lead applicant for the entry.
3. The sole or lead applicant must be a researcher and current member of staff or a registered PGR at the University of Surrey and expect to continue as a member of the University until at least 31st January 2024, the date of University of Surrey Annual Open Research Culture Event. They (or a team member who is also a member of the University in the case of team applications) must be available to give a short talk based on their submitted abstract.
4. For team entries, team members may include non-research staff (teaching staff, professional service staff) or individuals from outside the University.
5. The panel of judges will draw up a shortlist of entries. Shortlisted applicants will be notified no later than 15th December 2023. They will be invited to give a short presentation at the University of Surrey Open Research Culture Annual Event, to be held on the University of Surrey campus on 31st January 2024.
6. If a shortlisted entry is unable to field someone to present at the Event, the entry will be removed from the shortlist. In the case of team entries, the lead applicant will be expected to give the talk, but they may co-present with other team members. If the lead applicant is unable to present, another team member may be substituted.
7. Applicants must give permission for the University to publish an edited version of the case study and to disseminate it via internal and external communication channels. Final versions of material will be submitted to the lead applicant for approval prior to publication. Case studies will be published shortly after the Annual Event.
8. The winning presentation will be selected by the audience at the Event and will be announced at the end of the University of Surrey Annual Open Research Culture Event after presentations have been given. Prize money will be paid no later than 6th March 2024. In the case of team entries the prize money will be paid to the lead applicant on behalf of the team.

Enquiries

Please send any enquiries concerning the Open Research Award to anna.korzeniowska@surrey.ac.uk