



RTPI

mediation of space · making of place



Guidance for Judges 2017

The RTPI Awards for Research Excellence are supported by



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Introduction

The RTPI Awards for Research Excellence recognise and promote high quality, impactful spatial planning research from RTPI accredited planning schools, and planning consultancies, in the UK, the Republic of Ireland and internationally.

The Awards are intended to:

- recognise the best spatial planning research from RTPI accredited planning schools;
- highlight the implications of academic research for policy and practice;
- recognise the valuable contribution of planning consultancies to planning research; and
- promote planning research generally.

Award categories

The Awards comprise five categories:

- Academic Award;
- Early Career Researcher Award;
- Student Award;
- Sir Peter Hall Award for Wider Engagement;
- Planning Consultancy Award.

More information on the awards, including eligibility and judging criteria, can be found in the [Application Guidance 2017](#).

Nomination of judges

The RTPI invites **accredited planning schools to nominate one judge for the Awards, sending the nomination by Friday 19th May 2017**.

Judges will be allocated to one of three panels – one panel for the Academic Award and Early Career Researcher Award; one panel for the Student Award and Wider Engagement Award; and one panel for the Planning Consultancy Award. Other judges will include RTPI officers and other invitees, for example practitioners.

In the event of more nominations being received than there are places on panels, the RTPI will propose which schools are represented on which panels in order to ensure that the panels are as representative as possible of the range of accredited planning schools.

The panels will not meet in person, rather the entries will be sent to judges electronically.

Judging process and workload

The deadline for entries for all five categories is on Friday 19th May 2017. The judging process will take place between **Monday 29th May 2017 and Friday 7th July 2017** (six weeks).

RTPI will check that the entries meet the eligibility criteria, and the entries will then be sent to judges electronically.

The likely volume of applications is still unknown, however entries may be divided up between the judges on each Award panel to ensure a manageable workload.

Each entry will comprise one completed entry form and an electronic copy of the full entry. **Each judge will be asked to score the entries on a range from 1 to 5 according to the five criteria for each category.** Although the full entry will be made available to the judges, they can also refer to the abstract on the entry form.

A small number of entries will be shortlisted and a winning and commended entry determined based on this scoring, with further deliberations among panel members if necessary.

The shortlisted entries for each category will be published from July 2017 onwards on the RTPI website, and the winning and commended entry for each category presented at the annual UK-Ireland Planning Research Conference in Queen's University Belfast on 11-13 September 2017.

Conflicts of interest

Judges will not be able to vote for entries from planning schools which with they are associated and may have a conflict of interest (either as employed staff, visiting professors/lecturers, or with whom they have recent or ongoing research collaborations). In these cases, the remaining judges' marks will be averaged to ensure that such entries are not discriminated against. **Potential judges will be asked to indicate any possible conflicts of interest during the nomination process.**

Further information and enquiries

This guidance is available on the RTPI website at: www.rtpi.org.uk/researchawards

Enquiries regarding the Awards should be sent to: research@rtpi.org.uk

The RTPI will update this guidance as appropriate depending on enquiries received.



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About the RTPI

The Royal Town Planning Institute holds a unique position in relation to planning as a professional membership body, a charity and a learned institute. We have a responsibility to promote the research needs of spatial planning in the UK, Ireland and internationally.

More information on our research programmes and projects can be found on the RTPI website at: www.rtpi.org.uk/knowledge/research/

You are also welcome to email us at: research@rtpi.org.uk

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