ARMA AWARDS 2027: CATEGORIES and CRITERIA

This document outlines the different award categories and criteria which nominees must fulfil.

AWARD OBJECTIVES

The ARMA Awards aim to:

- Enhance the profession of research management by showcasing excellence and demonstrating innovation within the profession undertaken by individuals and teams.
- Celebrate, congratulate and showcase the achievements of ARMA members and share best practice with a growing, global professional community.
- Recognise pioneering approaches to research management and disseminate that information through provision of case studies and other materials based on nominations for the Awards.
- Enhance the profile and reputation of ARMA members' teams and organisations.
- Raise the profile of ARMA throughout the profession and the wider research sector.

THE 2027 AWARD CATEGORIES

This year, there are five categories, each reflecting the range of expertise within our profession. We recognise that the research management profession encompasses a broad field of expertise and functions, including rapidly evolving areas such as Trusted Research, due diligence and sustainability. In addition, it involves leveraging emerging tools and techniques such as artificial intelligence. We are encouraging nominations to all the awards from across this breadth of expertise and from all backgrounds and types of research organisations.

Each category provides an opportunity to showcase some of the best practice that is influencing the development of research management:

- ARMA Volunteer of the Year
- Collaboration in Research Management
- Innovation in Research Management
- Research Culture in Research Management
- Research Management Team of the Year

As the Outstanding Contribution Award is presented every two years, it is not open for nominations in 2027. The category will return in 2028.

1. **ARMA Volunteer of the Year**

   Volunteers are integral to ARMA and play a vital role in supporting the Association, its members and the wider research management community. This award recognises an individual volunteer for outstanding service to the Association. It is open to all ARMA volunteers of any career stage, who within the last two years, have actively contributed to ARMA activities.

   In general, nominees will have demonstrated outstanding commitment and enthusiasm for their role as a volunteer. They will have succeeded in what they have done for ARMA and made a significant difference in an ethical, respectful and inclusive manner. Specifically, the nominees of any career stage will have demonstrated one or more of the following attributes, with due regard to equality, diversity and inclusion:

   - Made a demonstrable contribution to the Association and the research management profession through volunteering and demonstrating ARMA values
   - Undertaken meaningful actions that have created impact and measurable outcomes for the Association
   - Devised, developed or implemented creative, inclusive, innovative strategies, or solutions to address the needs of the membership and priorities of the Association
   - Positively influenced, motivated or inspired others to participate in or support ARMA initiatives and activities.

   Judges will particularly look for evidence of significant and sustained commitment where a volunteer has demonstrated dedication and a drive to make a difference.

2. **Collaboration in Research Management**

   Collaboration amongst research management professionals is an important part of research, whether it occurs across organisations, sectors, or on national and international levels. This award celebrates a project or initiative that demonstrates the value and impact of a collaborative approach to research management, identifying challenges and opportunities and their resolution, and enhancing the ability of researchers to work across disciplinary, organisational, sector or global boundaries.

   This award would normally recognise a team within an organisation that supports research, including higher education institutions (HEIs), non-HEIs, and/or public/private sector organisations, and either a collaboration across that organisation or between multiple organisations or sectors.

   In general, nominated collaborations will have demonstrably contributed to the research enterprise of the respective organisation(s). Specifically, the nominees will have demonstrated one or more of the following attributes, with due regard to equality, diversity and inclusion:

- Made a demonstrable contribution to the quality and effectiveness of research management through successful collaboration
- Built and sustained effective relationships across teams and boundaries
- Meaningfully engaged interested parties or policymakers in an ethical, respectful and inclusive manner
- Devised, developed or implemented techniques and approaches for effective collaboration that can be readily replicated by others
- Influenced the practice of research management directly or indirectly at local, national or international level
- Contributed to enhancing quality, quantity or impact of research
- Brought together people and organisations in ways that have delivered measurable outcomes and positive change, including widening participation and enabling unrepresented voices to contribute
- Enhanced the reputation and/or success of the partner organisations.

Judges will look for clear evidence of effective collaboration between professionals in research management and partners.

Judges will also consider how relationships were developed and sustained, how challenges were addressed and whether learning or effective approaches from the collaboration can be replicated and therefore have potential wider benefits if adopted elsewhere. This may include innovative practices learned or adopted from sectors or professions outside research management.

3. Innovation in Research Management

Innovative approaches can enhance service delivery in research management. Showcasing innovation to promote or advance research management, this award recognises an individual or team that has invented, modernised or transformed new or existing approaches to further and enhance their organisation's work in the breadth of research professional areas.

In general, nominees will have contributed to their organisations' research endeavour through development and implementation of innovative practices, systems or approaches in any aspect of research management. Specifically, the nominees of any career stage will have demonstrated one or more of the following attributes, with due regard to equality, diversity and inclusion:

- Made a demonstrable contribution to the practice of research management through innovation
- Devised, developed or implemented innovation that can be readily replicated within other departments and/or research organisations
- Innovation that promotes equity of opportunity

- Influenced the practice of research management directly or indirectly at the local, national or international level
- Facilitated enhanced quality or quantity of research
- Devised, developed and/or implemented innovative strategies, campaigns, or solutions to address the needs and priorities of a particular research management group or the wider research community
- Achieved excellence beyond the scope of their primary professional role.

Judges will particularly look for an initiative that has transferability or addresses emerging challenges and opportunities and therefore has potential wider benefits if adopted elsewhere. They will also look for effective use of practices learned or adopted from sectors or professions outside research management.

4. Research Culture in Research Management

Research culture is integral to successful research, whether conducted across organisations, disciplines or sectors, and at national or international level. This award celebrates a project or initiative that has made a significant and positive impact to research culture, identifying challenges and opportunities and their resolution, and enhancing the current culture across their organisation, sector or research ecosystem.

In general, nominated projects or initiatives will have demonstrably contributed to a positive, inclusive and creative research culture. Specifically, the nominees of any career stage will have demonstrated one or more of the following attributes, with due regard to equality, diversity and inclusion:

- Made a demonstrable contribution to research culture through successful techniques or approaches
- Devised, developed or implemented processes, policies, strategies or action plans for research culture that promote equity of opportunity and can be readily replicated by others
- Influenced the behaviours, values, expectations, attitudes of the individuals, career stages, underrepresented groups and/or marginalised groups working in research directly or indirectly at a local, organisational or sector level
- Promoted a positive research culture that supports and actively engages underrepresented and/or marginalised groups
- Facilitated enhanced quality of research undertaken as a result of a positive, inclusive or creative impact on research culture
- Demonstrated an inclusive approach to culture strategy
- Demonstrated a substantial positive impact on the reputation and success of the research organisation.

Where relevant, judges will particularly look for techniques and approaches across the profession in fostering and maintaining a positive research culture, as well as

benchmarks and accreditations from other allied organisations that can be replicated and therefore have potential wider benefits if adopted elsewhere. They will also look for effective use of policies and practices learned or adopted from sectors or professions outside research management.

5. Research Management Team of the Year

Research management comprises an increasingly diverse range of activities and requires a broad mix of talent, knowledge and skills in order to work well. This award celebrates a research management team of any shape, size and/or scope that has succeeded in working as a robust, cohesive and effective unit, resulting in a significant positive impact on their organisation's research endeavours, within or beyond the organisation.

In general, nominees will have demonstrated they have worked effectively and inclusively as a team, drawing on different skills, expertise and perspectives to achieve shared goals making an exceptional positive contribution to their organisation's research endeavour. Specifically, the nominees will have demonstrated one or more of the following attributes, with due regard to equality, diversity and inclusion:

- Created and managed strong and sustainable relationships with internal and external stakeholders, collaborators and/or partners
- Implemented successful approaches to promoting positive and effective internal communications
- Devised effective methods for harmonising different aspects of research management
- Demonstrated joined-up research management across organisations, sectors, central and/or departmental offices as appropriate, responding to the unique circumstances of each environment
- Modernised or transformed processes for engaging with and responding to the requirements of the organisation's leadership and/or academic community
- Highlighted the use of successful practices for integration, harmonisation and/or communication
- Demonstrated a substantial positive impact on the success of the organisation's research endeavour(s)
- Responded proactively and effectively to a shifting internal and/or external landscape.

Judges will particularly look for cases that can be replicated and have currency and relevance within the last year and therefore have potential wider benefits if adopted elsewhere.