

Western Research Excellence Awards 2025 Best Practices for Developing Nominations

FAQ Answers

Who is eligible for the WREA Awards?

The WREAs are intended for individual scholars, they are not awarded to teams or partnerships

The Hellmuth Prize for Achievement in Research Award may be awarded to a scholar at the Full Professor rank. However, the most competitive nominees will be world-class scholars with a substantial body of work, likely spanning decades, who have demonstrated sustained research, creative and/or scholarly leadership, and research excellence. They are likely the recipient of other prestigious external awards and prizes.

Please note that age is not a factor in the evaluation of nominations in any category. For example, the nominee does not need to be near retirement to be competitive for the Hellmuth Prizes.

Eligibility is based on the appointment status of the nominee on the date of the program nomination deadline (March 21, 2025).

Can we notify the candidate they are being nominated?

There is no expectation that the WREA nominations be kept confidential from the nominees.

Including the candidates in the nomination development can often strengthen the overall quality of the final dossier. They can provide valuable insight into their work and its ongoing significance and impact.

General Notes and Best Practices

Consider a few basic research awards strategies when developing your WREA nomination:

- Avoid including overly technical information or jargon
- Use a clear and compelling narrative to convince the selection committee your nominee is the best candidate for the award
- Keep in mind the selection committee will include non-experts outside the nominee's research area
- Where appropriate, explain or define any specific conventions in the field or discipline and place the nominee within that context. For example, if the number of publications might appear low but is very impressive for their field of study and/or career stage explain this to the committee
- Use links to online materials where useful, but do so strategically

- Do not copy and paste materials from grant applications or other funding applications, the information provided should be specific to the WREA category your candidate is being nominated for

Content Development

- Provide a “fact-heavy” narrative and explain the specific originality, significance, and impact of the candidate’s achievements to date, relative to their career stage
- Focus on the significant contributions of the nominee and highlight their impact - there is not enough space to include everything so be selective
- The rationale does not need to be written in chronological order and is not meant to be a biography
- Feel free to use headings in the rationale to highlight key contributions or scholarly activities. This also creates smaller “sound bites” for the reviewers and breaks up a long narrative
- Make use of both traditional and non-traditional metrics, as appropriate. The selection committee will look for evidence beyond the numbers, or to further support the numbers
- Provide specific examples when describing research accomplishments or contributions rather than using generalizations or vague statements
- Outline the nominee’s reputation and stature in their field in a clear and well-defined way – locally, nationally, internationally (if applicable)
- Comment on the significance and impact of the nominee’s research, scholarship, and/or creative activity, and reach beyond the university (as appropriate for the career stage)
- Where possible, provide examples when describing the nominee’s contributions to advancing EDIDA in the research, scholarship and/or creative ecosystems
- Describe the potential for continued excellence and impact