VICE-CHANCELLOR'S AWARDS SCHEME - 2026
UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA

The University of Ruhuna has introduced a 'Vice-Chancellor's Awards Scheme' to recognise, appreciate and honor the outstanding contributions and accomplishments in research, inventions, innovations, creative works, and international collaborations by academics and students.
The following seven categories of awards are proposed by the university;

1. **Most Outstanding Scholar**
2. **Most Outstanding Young Researcher**
3. **Most Outstanding Staff Inventor / Innovator**
4. **Most Outstanding Student Inventor / Innovator**
5. **Highest Recipient of Grants**
6. **Most Outstanding Promoter of International Relations**
7. **UOR Tier 4 Star Award**

Common Guidelines

I. Academics can apply for one or more awards.
II. Academics who have received a Vice-Chancellor's award once before are not eligible to apply for the same award again unless specifically mentioned.
III. Applications should be forwarded to the Vice-Chancellor through official channels.
IV. The applicants can claim marks for their achievements up to the 31st December of the year of awards unless other ways are mentioned specifically.
V. The applicants should sign each application giving the following declaration;

"I declare that the information and particulars furnished above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further declare that I have not included any claimed marks for any paper published in a fake or predatory journal, according to my knowledge, and I accept the condition that my application will be assessed with no marks for such publications if it is revealed that any paper from a fake or predatory journal is included in the application".

1. The Most Outstanding Scholar

- Members of the academic staff are eligible to apply.
- A minimum of 80 points should be obtained, to be considered for the award.
- The applicants should sign the application giving the following declaration;

"I declare that the information and particulars furnished above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further declare that I have not included any claimed marks for any paper published in a fake or predatory journal according to my knowledge, and I accept the condition that my application will be assessed with no marks for such publications if it is revealed that any paper from a fake or predatory journal is included in the application".

Marks for achievements or accomplishments will be allocated as follows;

Component	Marks allocated	Marks claimed by the applicant	Marks are given by the evaluators
a. Publications *For single-authored papers, the author will receive 100% of the marks allocated for the paper.* *Publications with one additional author will receive 60% of the marks for the first author and 40% of the marks for the second author.* *Publications by more than two authors will receive 40% for the first author and equal balance share for other authors.* **Papers in peer-reviewed journals** (i) Publications indexed in accepted citation indices (i.e. Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Science Citation Index, and Arts and Humanities Citation Index) (ii) Publications in other peer-reviewed journals.	 up to 5 points each up to 3 points each		
b. Presentation at conferences/ Professional meetings etc. (i) Published as a peer-reviewed full paper. (ii) Published as an Abstract	 up to 2 points each up to 0.5 points each		
c. Chapters in books published by (i) Internationally recognised publisher (ii) Recognised scientific, academic or Professional bodies.	 up to 4 points each up to 2 points each		

d. Books and/or textbooks published in the area of expertise of the applicant *For each book, provide the author's name, number of copies published, ISBN, intended target group; e.g. schoolchildren, university students etc., and number of pages. Confirm that these are the intended information fields.* (i) A recognised international publisher. (ii) Booklets – less than 50 pages (iii) Monographs	up to 6 points each ▪ if reviewed by two experts, up to 4 points. ▪ if it is not up 2 points up to 2 points each up to 3 points each		
e. Translation of monographs/ books	up to 3 points each		
f. Editing of journals/books (i) Editors-in-Chief of a refereed journal (ii) Member of the editorial board of a refereed journal.	0.5 points per issue up to a maximum of 5 points per journal 0.25 points per issue up to a maximum of 2.5 points per journal		

g. Documented orations, keynote addresses etc. in recognised national or international professional bodies. (i) Orations • International • National • Local (text of oration should be submitted) (ii) Keynote addresses / presidential addresses	 5 points 3 points 0.5 points 2 points per event up to maximum of 10		
h. Citation of applicant's work in referred journals and scholarly publications (excluding self-citations and citations in fake or predatory publications)	0.5 points up to a maximum of 5 points for repeated citations per paper		
i. Recognised national/international meritorious awards for research and creative works	up to 3 points each (In case of 'Presidential Awards for Research', if more than one research paper is included in the same certificate, each research paper will be treated separately in giving the full marks)		
j. Creative works*	up to 3 points each		
k. Grants (i) funds received from international sources	1 point per US$ 2,500 or its equivalent		

(ii) funds received from national sources	1 point per equivalent to US$ 2,500 in rupees at the given time: up to 10 marks (In case of teamwork, the highest recipient gets full marks of 10 while others get 50% allocated marks divided equally.)		
l. Number of graduate students supervised and graduated**	▪ up to 2 points per PhD. ▪ Up to 1 point per MPhil or Master's degree by research, of duration of 2 or more years. ▪ Up to 1 point per MD/MS students. *** ▪ Up to 0.5 points per Master's degree with a research component of 1 or more year duration. (Up to a maximum of 10 points for each of the above.)		

*With regard to poems, songs, novels, composed music, dances, plays, films etc., reviews or appreciations of each item by authoritative persons should be attached. For creative products or services in science or allied field, a brief description of the creative nature of the item should be submitted along with documentary proof. With regard to specific works of international reputation, justification should be made.

**It should be stated whether served as the principal supervisor or as a co-supervisor. The principal supervisor is given full marks while the co-supervisor will get 50% of the allocated marks. The relevant student should have graduated prior to the deadline of application.
In the case of MD / MS students, a suitable fraction of the maximum marks will be allocated based on the number of trainers.

2. The Most Outstanding Young Researcher

- Members of the academic staff who are below 40 years of age on the closing date of applications.
- A minimum of 35 marks should be obtained, to be considered for the award.

Marks for achievements or accomplishments will be allocated in the same way as in the Most Outstanding Scholar Award. (The same declaration should also be included) In addition, marks will be allocated for the educational qualifications as follows.

Component	**Marks allocated**	**Marks claimed by the applicant**	**Marks given by the evaluators**
a. PhD	05 points for each		
b. MPhil	03 points for each		
c. MA/MSc	02 points for each		
d. Additional Bachelor's Degree	1.5 points for each		
e. Postgraduate Diploma	01 point for each		

3. The Most Outstanding Staff Inventor / Innovator

- A minimum of 6 points is required to be considered for the award.
- Include achievements within 3 Years prior to 31st December of the year of the award
- Once the person receives the title, he/she has to earn fresh marks to be eligible for the same award in the subsequent occasion.

Marks will be allocated as follows;

Component	Marks allocated	Marks claimed by the applicant	Marks given by the evaluators
a. National and international patents	▪ up to 3 points per each national patent ▪ up to 5 points per each international patent		
b. National and international certificate for invention	▪ up to 1 point for each national certificate ▪ up to 2 points for each international certificate		
c. Industrial designs	▪ up to 3 points per each internationally recognised design ▪ up to 2 points per each nationally recognised design		
d. Commercialized Patents*	▪ Commercialization of international patent: up to 15 points per each ▪ Commercialization of national patent: up to 10 points per each		

*A brief description should be given of the following;

- number of machines/implements/ instruments /software, assembled/ produced
- quantity of the product marketed/developed/sold,
- the type of biological or chemical process invented,
- the impact on any sector, industry or community and
- contribution to regional/national development.

4. The Most Outstanding Student Inventor / Innovator

- The marking scheme is the same as for the 'Most Outstanding Staff Inventor / Innovator
- The minimum requirement to be considered for the award is to have some 'evidence of inventions/innovations' (In other words, no minimum mark introduced to be eligible for the award).
- Achievements any time during the studentship up to 31st December of the year of the award are acceptable.
- An applicant is entitled to submit applications yearly. In other words, applicants who won the award once are eligible to apply again for their new achievements.
- Students who have completed the degree during the year of the award are also eligible to apply.
- Any special achievement which is not mentioned in the marking scheme could be considered under this category with proven evidence, and marks up to 05 points will be allocated.

5. The Highest Recipient of Grants.

- A minimum of 10 marks is required to be considered for the award.
- Only the grants received within 3 years prior to the 31st December of the year of the award will be considered in giving marks.
- Once a person receives the award, he/she has to earn fresh marks, if needs to apply for the same award on the subsequent occasion.

Component	Marking Scheme	Marks claimed by the applicant	Marks are given by the evaluators
a. Funds received from international sources	1 point per US$ 2,500 or its equivalent		
b. Funds received from national sources	1 point per equivalent of US$ 2,500 in rupees at the given time		

A brief description should be given of the output of each grant received including capacity building, staff training, improvement of laboratory facilities and research capabilities, the establishment of new units, centers, etc.

This should be certified by the Head of the Department and the Dean of the Faculty concerned.

6. The Most Outstanding Promoter of International Relations

- A minimum of 10 points is required to be considered for the award.
- Once a person receives the title, he/she has to earn fresh marks it needs to apply for the same award on a subsequent occasion
- Include achievements within 03 Years prior to the 31st December of the year of the award.
- Marks for achievements or accomplishments will be allocated as follows;

International Conferences

Documentary evidence should be submitted by the applicant for the following:

- No. of sessions
- No. of Guest speakers local
  foreign
- Funds received
- Benefits for the University and the Nation

International Relations

Documentary evidence should be submitted by the applicant for the following:

- Funds received
- Duration of the project
- Benefits/Advantages for the Institution
- Contribution to national development

Marks for achievements or accomplishments will be allocated as follows;

Component	Marks Allocated	Marks claimed by the applicant	Marks are given by the evaluators
a. International conferences, workshops, symposia, training programs, etc.*, No. of Sessions (Session = Minimum 03 hrs.)	2 points per session		
b. Editing of proceeding	5.0 points (Should be divided among members, if there is an Editorial board)		
c. Link programs, collaborative research projects, MOU developed**	2.5 points per link programmed/ collaboration: Maximum 15 points		
(i) No. of short-term foreign training arranged	1.5 points/person trained		
(ii) No. of academic visits made Internationally	0.5 points/visit		
(iii) No. of staff served as resource people in a foreign institution	1.5 points/resource person		
(iv) No. of overseas Masters scholarships obtained	3 points each		
(v) No. of overseas Doctoral scholarships obtained	5 points each		
(vi) No. of student exchanged	up to 5points per project depending on the number of students, duration of the visits etc.		
(vii) Outputs of research projects	up to 5 points per project on the number of research, publications, monographs, innovations, inventions etc. produced		

*50% of the total marks allocated for an event will be given to the chairman of the organizing committee, while a member of the organizing committee will be given a part of the remaining 50% depending on the number of members in the organizing committee.

**A brief description should be given of contributions to capacity building and institutional, regional/national development, along with relevant supporting documents.

This should be certified by the Head of the Department and the Dean of the Faculty concerned.

7. UOR Tier 4 Star Award

The "**UOR Tier 4 Star Award**" was introduced to be awarded to UOR academic and administrative staff members who have achieved Tier 4* status (the highest status) based on their research output at the annual Academic Sessions and Vice-Chancellor's Awards commencing from 2024.

The minimum h-index values to qualify for Tier 4* given for different research disciplines according to the UGC commission circular 05/2018 (Table 01) have been proposed to be used for the qualification of the award for each year.

Please note that to be qualified for this award, you must achieve Tier 4* (Highest Tier) by the submission date mentioned below.

Table 01: Minimum h-index value to qualify for a Tier

Faculties / Disciplines	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	**Tier 4 ***
Indigenous Medicine, Medical and Dental Sciences	0	2	7	13	**20**
Pure sciences except mathematics	0	2	6	11	**17**
Agriculture, Allied Health Sciences, Applied Sciences, Engineering, IT and Computing, Quantity Surveying, Veterinary Sciences.	0	2	5	9	**14**
Architecture, Arts, Design, Fine arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Law, Management, Mathematics, Town and country planning.	0	1	4	7	**11**

- Applicants should obtain the minimum tier 4* h-index value given for the different research disciplines according to the UGC commission circular 05/2018 to qualify for the award.
- Applicants should have a public Google Scholar profile, so that it may appear in Google Scholar results when people search by their name.
- Google Scholar Profile of the applicant should have the University of Ruhuna as the institutional affiliation. '
- A public, Google Scholar Profile which is free of fake/predatory journal publications, by the closing date of the application will only be considered for the evaluation process.

- List of articles in the applicant’s Google Scholar Profile should be updated ensuring non-inclusion of predatory / fake publications or publications of other authors with similar names.

- Full bibliographic reference of each article, journal publication, book chapter, book or other scholarly publication, that contribute to the h – index should be given with number of citations.

- Citations earned from predatory journals and the applicant's self-citations (including all co-authored articles) should not be counted toward the number of citations for a given article in the application, and such articles in the applicant's Google Scholar profile will not be considered in the evaluation.

- If the author has multiple Google Scholar profiles, the link should be provided for a single, refined profile. Only the specified profile will be evaluated for the award. Applicants are encouraged to maintain a single profile.