

Australian Synchrotron User Advisory Committee (UAC)

Australian Synchrotron Research Awards 2026

To recognise the outstanding achievements of the Australian Synchrotron Research committee, the User Advisory Committee (UAC) will be awarding two Australian Synchrotron Research Awards in 2026.

Award Categories

Early-career Researcher (ECR) Australian Synchrotron Research Award

Awarded to an ECR within 5 years (as of the 30th November of the relevant year) full-time equivalent career experience since their PhD award date (career interruptions will be considered as per Appendix 1).

Mid-career Researcher (MCR) Australian Synchrotron Research Award

Awarded to a MCR with between 5 and 15 years (as of 30th November of the relevant year) full-time equivalent career experience since their PhD award date (career interruptions will be considered as per Appendix 1).

Application Process

Applications consist of a response to the selection criteria in the online form and a reference letter. Self-nominations are accepted.

Reference letters (maximum 2 pages) can be provided by a supervisor, mentor or beamline scientist either internal or external to the applicant's organisation. The reference letter should detail the nominee's contributions to synchrotron science and what makes the nominee unique or special, describing specific characteristics, qualities, or examples that you believe make the nominee stand out. Quality and contribution to synchrotron science and the synchrotron community is appreciated more than quantity.

Applications will be assessed by the UAC considering the response to the selection criteria and the strength of the reference letter.

Selection Criteria (200 words each)

Early-career Researcher (ECR) Award

1. Leading and/or participating in synchrotron proposals and contribution to beamline experiments with a demonstrated emerging discipline expertise.

2. High quality research outputs resulting from synchrotron science and demonstrated upwards trajectory relative to disciplinary field and opportunities.
3. Participating in and/or building collaborative networks.
4. Contribution to and engagement with the synchrotron user community and/or other professional societies.

Mid-career Researcher (MCR) Award

1. Leading synchrotron proposals and conducting beamline experiments, including the management and mentoring of research teams.
2. Contribution to innovative synchrotron advances, including development of novel protocols, procedures, environments and facilities.
3. Demonstrated track record of significant and high quality research outputs resulting from synchrotron science relative to disciplinary field, highlighting real-word impact.
4. Evidence of national and international engagement, contribution and dissemination of synchrotron science to the national and global communities.

Appendix 1

Eligible Interruptions: Significant (often defined as >30 days) and non-overlapping periods are considered. These include:

- Caring responsibilities
- Parental leave
- Primary carer of a dependent child (up to two years per child, inclusive of parental leave, plus potentially more time commensurate with the interruption)
- Medical conditions or disability
- Unemployment
- Non-research employment (not concurrent with research employment)
- Limited or no access to facilities/resources (e.g., workplace closures, COVID-19 impact)
- Disaster management and recovery
- International relocation (up to three months per relocation)
- Community obligations (including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cultural practices)