Sussex Doctoral Open Research Prize

As part of its Research England funded initiative to promote Open Research activity at Sussex, the University is pleased to launch its first Doctoral Open Research Prize.

Sussex encourages doctoral students to explore and engage with Open Research practices in their work and study, to maximise the possibility of public and academic engagement and impact. The aim of this prize is to reward and encourage PhD research that has been or will be more "open" than is typical in your discipline.

The prize will either:

a) Recognise exceptional examples of Open Research that you have already delivered in your ongoing PhD; or
b) Enable you to spend time delivering specific exceptional Open Research with an innovative plan

Open Research includes making publications freely available online (open access), but Open Research is broader than this, comprising openness throughout the research cycle, through collaborative working and sharing and making research methodology, software, code and equipment freely available online, along with instructions for using it.

We interpret Open Research to include all aspects of open scholarship and the research cycle, encompassing:

- **Open access** publications
- **Open data**: This involves the release of databases or data sets that are open to the entire community for re-analysis or use in further analysis.
- **Open methods/protocols**. This could involve the release of methods or protocols that can be used by anyone for improving existing methods/approaches or new methods.
- **Open hardware and software**: For software, this would involve publishing the code involved in any aspect of research but would also entail 'means of analysis' such as statistical packages or the publishing of open software. Open hardware would be the development of the means of producing equipment for research that is easily reproducible and accessible. This could involve publishing the instructions for producing equipment through 3D printing or other low-cost means.
- **Open educational resources:** teaching, learning and research resources that can be freely accessed, used, re-mixed, improved, and shared.
- **Open peer review**. allowing wider and more public approach to the traditionally closed world of peer review.

Eligibility

- All currently registered Sussex PhD students (part-time, full-time, UK, EU or International) who have not submitted their thesis by July 31st 2022 are eligible to apply.
- The Open Research activity described must take place during the 12 months August 2021 to July 2022.
- This prize is not a grant for Open Access publications as we have other routes for this – via the PGR Open Access Fund or the UKRI block grant.

- If you are proposing new activity, we will ask you to provide a brief report on what you have achieved by the end of September 2022.

Funding

We expect to make around 15 awards.

Students already in receipt of a scholarship paid by Sussex, will receive a scholarship extension of 1 month's stipend (£1,300) and fees.

Self-funded students will receive a one-off stipend payment equivalent of 1 month's stipend (£1,300)

How to apply

Applicants need to email the application form to doctoralschool@susssex.ac.uk by the deadline of 4pm on **Monday June 13th 2022**

The form requires

- o A brief (50 word) description of your PhD research suitable for a general audience

- o Either (a) a brief (300 word) description of the aspects of Open research you have achieved or (b) a brief plan of the additional aspects of Open research that this will enable

- o A brief (100 word) explanation of why Openness is important for this research

- o A brief (200 word) comment from your supervisor to explain how this goes beyond the norm in your discipline and its relation to the state-of-the-art

Assessment

- Applications will be assessed by the University's Open Research Group chaired by Prof Seb Oliver, Deputy PVC (Research) against the criteria of
  - o Significance of the open aspects of this research
  - o Extent to which this goes beyond the norm or even state-of-the-art in the relevant subject area

- We are keen to support Open Research across the University and reserve the right to distribute awards across disciplines
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Timeline

Deadline for applications - 4pm on **Monday June 13th 2022**

Awards confirmed – **w/c Monday June 27th 2022**

Activity concludes – **31st July 2022**

Deadline for submitting 100 word report on new activity - 30th September 2022

Questions

If you have any questions about applying then please contact doctoralschool@sussex.ac.uk