

Young Innovative Researcher Award 2027

Application Guidelines

Objectives

PolyU is committed to research excellence and addressing global challenges with practical innovation, while research novelty, technology breakthrough, social / economic impacts and benefits to the community / industry are given due recognition. The **Young Innovative Researcher Award** aims to honour young PolyU researchers under the age of 35 who have made outstanding research achievements, contributed to technology advancement, and propelled transformational innovation into solutions for addressing problems in the society with a vision for a positive change to the future.

Eligibility

PolyU full-time research and academic staff, who are under or have just turned the age of 35 by 1 January of the year of the award (i.e. date of birth should be on / after 1 January 1992) and have demonstrated outstanding achievements as an independent researcher in the fields including but not limited to:

- Biotechnology & Medicine
- Energy & Sustainability
- Nanotechnology & Materials
- Software & Artificial Intelligence
- Advanced Manufacturing & Robotics
- Computer & Electronics Hardware
- Internet & Telecommunications
- Transportation
- Humanitarian & Social Care

Award and Recognition

Up to six awardees may be selected from the nine fields stated above. There will be no awardee if no suitable candidate is identified. Each awardee will receive:

- (i) Research funding support of HK\$1,000,000;
- (ii) Personal cash prize of HK\$20,000;
- (iii) Opportunities to be nominated by PolyU to the MIT Technology Review Innovators Under 35 (TR35) Asia Pacific/China, World Laureates Association Young Scientist Award or equivalent*;
- (iv) Media exposure and promotion;
- (v) Young Innovative Researcher Award plaque to be presented at the award ceremony

**Each awardee of MIT TR35 Asia Pacific or equivalent will receive additional research funding and possible PhD quota as determined according to the prevailing policy of the University.*

Timeline of Application

The applications would be processed according to the below timeline:

12 Jan 2027	Deadline of application
Jan to Apr 2027	Application review by assessment panel and short-listed interview
Late Apr 2027	Announcement of results
May 2027	Awardee(s) may be considered for nomination to the MIT Technology Review Innovators Under 35 Asia Pacific/China or equivalent
TBC	Award ceremony

Application and Document Requirement

Nomination and self-nomination are accepted. The applications should be submitted through online system at Young Innovative Researcher Award (YIRA) 2027 - Application Form with the following documents uploaded:

- (i) Curriculum Vitae, include five most representative publications in the last five years and five presentative publications beyond the recent five-year period[#];
- (ii) One-page executive summary[#] of the research focusing on the originality and its relevant impact on the society (in English). The applicant should state the novelty and translation potentials of the search;
- (iii) Research proposal[#] (in English of no more than three pages) – applicants should declare similar/related proposals or projects, and should not recycle any old proposals;
- (iv) At least two letters of recommendation (approximately one-page) from experts in the related field. The experts should be at the rank of associate professor / senior scientist / researcher / engineer / architect etc. or above. The reasons for supporting the application should be provided with particular regard as to how the innovative research done by the applicant would impact on the society and change people's life. Referees may submit their letters of recommendation separately if they prefer. However, they should ensure timely submission to meet the application deadline. Applicants should coordinate with their referees to avoid delays and inform RIO in advance.

[#]*Documents should be submitted in the following standard RGC format:*

- *Font: Times New Roman*
- *Font size: 12 points*
- *Margin: 2.5cm all round*
- *Spacing: Single-line spacing*

Assessment Panel

The assessment panel will be made up of representative members of Central Management Team and Senior Faculty Members.

Selection Criteria

The applications should demonstrate:

- (i) Originality and novelty of the research;
- (ii) Short-term (1-3 years), medium-term (4-10 years), and long-term (>10 years) impacts of the research; and
- (iii) Relevance, impact and significance of the research to the industrial, economic and social development in Hong Kong and beyond.

Enquiries

Research and Innovation Office

Kristy Ho | Email: kristy-sw.ho@polyu.edu.hk | Tel: 3400 2813

Vanessa Tse | Email: vanessa-1.tse@polyu.edu.hk | Tel: 3400 2347