



PRESIDENT'S AWARDS FOR RESEARCH 2021

Submission Guidelines

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The RIBA is now welcoming entries for the 2021 President's Awards for Research, which includes the RIBA President's Medal for Research.

If you have questions about the Awards email research@riba.org or call a member of the Research and Innovation team on 020 7307 3714.

The Awards

The RIBA President's Awards for Research promote and celebrate the best of research in the field of architecture and the built environment that contributes to new knowledge and understanding of architecture and the practice of architecture. The call for papers is available on the RIBA website:

<https://www.architecture.com/researchawards>

Eligibility

All those conducting architectural and built environment research related to architecture and the practice of architecture are eligible to enter the President's Awards for Research.

These include, but are not limited to; RIBA Members, RIBA Chartered Practices, architects at non-RIBA practices, professionals from other built environment disciplines, students and academics at RIBA validated or non-validated schools of architecture, students and academics from non-architectural academic schools and professional research organisations (such as English Heritage, the BRE, etc.).

Please note that free entry to the Awards is available **only** to registered RIBA members and institutions. Please see the section on entry fees below (pg 4).

Submissions must be based on original work authored or co-authored by the applicant and completed after 1st Jan 2020 (whether published or unpublished) provided such work has been sufficiently adapted for the format of the Awards, see below (pg 3).

Exclusions

Submissions based on publications commissioned by the RIBA are ineligible for entry and RIBA staff may not apply.

Eligibility period

The Awards are for research completed between 1 January 2020 and 5 July 2021.

Work previously submitted will not be accepted for resubmission unless substantive changes are evident or the project has evolved significantly since its previous submission and completed within the dates above. It is incumbent upon the applicant to demonstrate clearly in their application, how the project has evolved.

Confirmation of eligibility

The Research and Innovation team will confirm if an application is ineligible, otherwise entrants should assume that their application has been accepted.

A list of rejected entries will be forwarded to the judging panel for information. If a member of the judging panel disagrees with any of the decisions regarding rejection they may appeal to the Chair of the panel. The decision of the Chair is final.

Applicants will be notified whether they have been shortlisted in October 2021. Entrants may not appeal the decision.

Entry categories

There are four categories for the Awards:

- Annual Theme - Education
- Design + Technical
- Cities + Community
- History + Theory

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Annual Theme – Education

Submissions are invited that examine the changing face of architectural education, particularly in line with the RIBA's new [Themes and Values](#) approach to education, focusing on the social purpose of architecture, protecting the end user and aligning with mandatory competencies.

However, the theme is broadly conceived and submissions concerning the development of architectural education, pedagogy, CPD, the influence of architecture on education and vice-versa are encouraged.

- Adapting to the challenges of climate change, new technology, ethics and/or health and safety.
- Significant developments/pathways (historical or current) that shape/d architectural education and the impact/implications.
- The gap between construction and architectural education.
- Teaching and assessment styles, methods, environments (inc. the 'Crit'), the impact of virtual/distance learning/teaching (in relation to Covid-19 or otherwise).
- Developing skills and knowledge (inc. CPD) - the effectiveness and value.

Design + Technical

Submissions are invited under either or both headings of Design and Technical. Research should concern an investigation addressing the influence or impact of design, form and/or technology on the use and/or performance of a space or building/s. Topics may be holistic or focus on a specific element, addressing, but not limited to:

- Materials, detailing and/or construction methods
- Climate change, renewable or low carbon solutions and sustainable development
- Building and/or 'systems' performance, occupant behaviour and comfort
- Design methods and/or project management and Post Occupancy Evaluation
- Computational design, software tools and BIM

Cities + Community

Submissions are invited from those investigating the relationship between the built environment and people. Distinct from the historical category above, submissions here should focus on contemporary city and rural environs, their challenges and communities and may include, but are not limited to:

- The role of the architect and architecture in social, cultural and economic sustainability
- Analysis and contextual studies of architecture in the cityscape
- Tall buildings and impacts on cities and the community
- Community focused projects including pro-bono work
- Community engagement in projects
- Health, wellbeing and sustainability in the city

History + Theory

Submissions are invited from historians, theorists and practitioners whose work has relevance to the history and theory of the practice, culture and profession of architecture most broadly conceived.

- Historical research of direct relevance to a project, e.g. conservation plans and reports
- Cultural studies relating to architecture, professionalism and the built environment
- Histories of construction, science and technology
- Historical and/or theoretical research on place, space and urban planning
- History and/or theory of practice and praxis, including professionalism, procurement and non-design aspects of architectural practice

The Awards welcomes collaborative projects between academia and practice and others in the construction industry. It is expected that some submissions will cut across the above themes; such work should be submitted under the theme most closely aligned with the overarching aims of the project.

If you have any doubt about which theme to submit under please contact the Research and Innovation team at the RIBA on research@riba.org or telephone 020 7307 3714

Confirmation of category

Entrants will indicate on the submission form which category they wish to enter. If the Research and Innovation team determines that the entry is better suited in another category then the entrant will be informed and the judging panel made aware of the alteration.

If the entrant or a member of the judging panel does not agree with the category of an entry they may appeal to the Chair of the panel. The decision of the Chair is final.

Judging

Entries to the Awards are assessed anonymously in two stages: shortlisting (based on the abstract, research statement and references) and final judging (using the full research document). At both stages the entries are judged against the following criteria:

- **Originality** – the degree to which the research produces new insights related to architecture, the practice of architecture and the built environment.
- **Impact** – the degree to which the research has increased, or has the potential to increase the understanding of, or influence innovation in, architecture, practice and the wider built environment.
- **Rigour** – the intellectual precision and/or systematic method and/or integrity embodied in the research.
- **Communication** – the degree to which the work communicates clearly through written, visual and spatial formats, whether there is evidence of engaging audiences beyond specialists in the field and methods for dissemination.

Submissions

ALL submissions will be entered online from the link below and available on the RIBA website. The main body of the application requires the submission of:

- **300**-word Abstract
- **1,000**-word Research Statement
- **5,000 to 10,000**-word Research Document (this excludes references, bibliography, foot/end notes or captions)
- Maximum of **12 images (all with correct copyright/permissions)**

The main Research Document should be uploaded as a word document or pdf of **less than 10 MB**. The Abstract and Research Statement must be entered as text into the online application form.

Research Integrity

It is the responsibility of the submitting author to ensure that:

- The research submitted is their own work or work they have made a leading contribution to.
- Where the submission is based on research from a wider project involving other researchers and contributors not listed as co-authors, **it is imperative that the submitting author has the agreement of all those involved and that they are acknowledged appropriately** in the submission form. These individuals will be acknowledged in the main paper if the submission is selected for an award.
- Co-authors have made a significant contribution to the paper submitted.
- Images submitted are free from the Intellectual Property rights of third parties. **Applicants must have the permission of the copyright owner for each image** and due accreditation must be provided in the image caption.

The RIBA reserves the right to disqualify any applicant who is found to have plagiarised work, failed to apportion proper credit to peers/co-workers or infringed the intellectual property rights of any third party.

For more information on Research Integrity visit the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO <https://ukrio.org>)

Save and Resume

The form consists of one online page that may be saved and returned to at a later date. Upon saving your submission a URL will be issued; **you must copy and save this URL** in order to be able to return and continue with your entry.

Abstract and Research Statement

The Abstract, Research Statement and References in the submission form will be used to shortlist; it is essential, therefore, that these be given careful thought and consideration.

Applicants must redact all self-citations in their Abstract and Research Statement and omit all other identifying

information including names, affiliation and forthcoming articles as they will be blind peer-reviewed.

An abstract of no more than 300 words is required summarising the main aims, methods and findings of the research. Applicants are entitled to identify one image from their main paper to accompany their abstract.

The Research Statement should be no more than 1000 words and should provide an overview of the research under the follow headings:

I. Context

- What is the importance of the general area in which your research is conducted?
- How does the work relate to current and past research?
- How does it develop current themes or extend present understanding?

II. Questions, aims and arguments

- What is the main question addressed by the study?
- Define the overall aims of the work
- What are the main arguments or hypothesis underlining the study?

III. Resources, data and methodology

- What material and resources were utilised and what methods were used to collect them?
- What methods, processes and systems were used to interpret the data?
- Were there any ethical implications in your work and how were they addressed?

IV. Analysis and Findings

- A discussion of data and analysis and what was discovered.
- What were the conclusions and important points of discussion?

V. Impact, significance and outputs

- Who are the beneficiaries of the research?
- How will the findings be conveyed or disseminated?
- How has the work influenced its field of research?

Main body of work

Applicants must redact all self-citations in the main body of work, which must consist of only one document between 5,000 and 10,000 words and may contain a maximum of 12 images. A montage of multiple images will not be counted as 1 image. All images must include the copyright in the image caption. The limit on images is necessary in order to facilitate and control the cost of publication.

Documents that exceed the word limit will be returned to applicants for editing. The document should be submitted as a Word or pdf document of less than 10MB. If applicants have a file of a size larger than 10MB they will not be able to upload it.

If your pdf is larger than 10MB please try to reproduce it from your development software with a lower quality setting. The Research and Innovation team will be able to offer limited advice regarding this process.

The main body of work will be considered in the final stages of judging, should it pass the shortlisting stage, hence it is crucial that it be a clear and concise piece of work.

Submitting your application

The online submission form can be found at the following URL:

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/emf/RIBA/PAR2021>

Answer all mandatory questions and complete the remainder of the form in as much details as possible.

You will not be able to submit your entry if any of the mandatory questions are not answered.

Towards the end of the form there is an upload function for the main body of work. Ensure the file is no larger than 10MB otherwise it will be rejected by the form.

Upon submitting your entry a confirmation page will appear and you will receive a confirmation email to the account named in the form.

Publications

All abstracts will be published by the RIBA in both hardcopy and pdf format in The Book of Abstracts 2021. Commended papers will be made available in pdf format on the RIBA website. Winning papers will be published in the Journal of Architecture (subject to editorial review).

Entry fees

Free entry to the Awards remains a member benefit for:

- RIBA members (individual members, Chartered Practice, staff at Academic Member Schools, Affiliate Members, friends of architecture and patrons)
- Postgraduate students at validated schools
- RIBA student members (students studying RIBA parts 1 & 2 at validated schools are eligible to [join the RIBA for free](#))

For all other entries, fees are:

Non-RIBA students:	£25
University/Academic:	£50
Non-RIBA Practices:	£50
Other Business/Organisations:	£50

If you are uncertain about which entry fee category you fall under, please contact the Research and Innovation team on research@riba.org

Payment of fees

Those who are not eligible for free entry will be contacted by the RIBA to request payment following the submission deadline. If payment is not received prior to shortlisting then the entry will be rejected and entrants will be informed of the decision. The decision of the RIBA on this matter is final.

Timetable

Call for submissions:	29 April 2021
Submission deadline:	5 July 2021 - 23:59 (British Summer Time - BST)
Shortlist:	October 2021
Award ceremony:	December 2021

Processing entries

The Research and Innovation team will process entries prior to shortlisting, including confirmation of eligibility, category and payment if applicable. They will also check entries prior to the shortlisting process for anonymity - you may be requested to redact your paper if necessary.

The Awards and Medal

Awards are given for the best research in each of the four categories:

- Annual Theme - Education
- Design + Technical
- Cities + Community
- History + Theory

The Research Medal is awarded for the best research across all four categories.

Commendations in each category will be made at the discretion of the judges. Winners of the Awards, and those receiving commendations, will receive a certificate and a citation from the President. The winner of the Research Medal will receive a certificate and citation in addition to the Research Medal.

The winner of the Research Medal will have the right to refer to the medal in publicity and PR material, etc.:

“Winner of the 2021 RIBA President’s Medal for Research.”

Winners of Awards may use the text:

“Winner of the 2021 RIBA President’s Award for [category] Research.”

Those who have been commended may use the text:

“Commended in the 2021 RIBA President’s Awards for Research.”

The winners of each category will be invited to submit their winning article to the Journal of Architecture for publication in a special edition. No monetary prizes are awarded.

Terms and conditions

Submission of an application to the RIBA President’s Awards for Research and Research Medal constitutes the applicant’s agreement to permit the RIBA to publish all or part of the research summary (including images), as well as the identity and affiliation of the researcher/s. The RIBA may wish to disseminate all or part of the full research, but the applicant’s permission will be sought prior to publication.

Submission is provided through EmailMeForm web services. Data are collected and stored over secured, encrypted SSL/TLS connections. All other communications with the website are sent over SSL/TLS connections. The privacy policies of our service providers are available

upon request.

Data and submission will be held by our providers temporarily and removed once the RIBA has transferred all relevant data to an in-house database.