

The University of New England

ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

3Rs AWARD - Terms of Reference

**Purpose of the award**

As part of UNE’s commitment to the ethical principles of the Code, the Animal Ethics Committee offers an annual 3Rs awardto reward and promote the implementation, discovery or development of methodologies, techniques and/or technologies that enhance 3Rs principles:

* **Replacement** of animals with alternative methods
* **Reduction** of number of animals used and
* **Refinement** of techniques to minimise the potential impact on animals.

**Publicity**

* Applications and nominations will be sought by widely publicising the award and application closing date.
* External publicity of receipt of an award is a condition of entry and must be agreed to by the awardee and, if appropriate, their employer.
* Media releases will be coordinated by the Animal Ethics Officer in consultation with the winner and their host organisation, and will be treated sensitively.

**Application criteria**

The application must describe methods and/or results that either replace, reduce or refine the use of sentient animals in research or teaching.

The applicant’s work should meet one or more of the following criteria, against which they will be judged:

* Demonstrates great commitment to 3Rs principles
* Demonstrates innovative implementation of 3Rs principles
* Will help to promote awareness of 3Rs principles at UNE
* Advancement of an area of research that may allow application of one or more of the 3Rs to future projects
* Development of a novel procedure that replaces, reduces or refines the use of animals
* Improvement or formal validation of an existing non-animal procedure
* Replacing use of sentient animal species with non-sentient species
* Dissemination of the 3Rs implications to scientific colleagues
* Evidence of recent peer-reviewed papers, either, published, submitted or in preparation.
* A clear indication of the extent to which the work has already replaced animal-based procedures or may be possible in the future.

**Rules of the award**

* Applicants must be:
	+ 1. Academic or general staff holding full-time or fractional appointments at UNE (including adjunct, and honorary staff) at the time of the award, or
		2. Postgraduate and/or Honours students enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis at the time of the award, or
		3. From eligible external organisations where applications are assessed by the UNE AEC.
* A substantial component of the work must have been conducted by:
	1. Staff or students of UNE whose nominated AEC is UNE or,
	2. An eligible external organisation whose nominated AEC is UNE.
* If animal use occurred, the work must have been conducted under a UNE Animal Ethics Committee approval, which was active at any time between 1st January and 1st December in the year of the award.
* The University reserves the right not to proceed with the award.
* The decision of the judging panel shall be final.

**Please note: any AEC finding of non-compliance with AEC approval may render the individual or group ineligible for this award.**

**Application process**

* Applicants must use the UNE 3Rs application form, which can be downloaded from <https://www.une.edu.au/research/research-services/research-ethics-integrity/animal-research-ethics/animal-ethics-3rs-award>

**Judging panel and assessment process**

* The Chair of the selection panel will be the Animal Welfare Officer.
* The judging panel will comprise two members of the AEC working group and two members of the AEC, including one Category B member and one Category C or D member. Diversity among panel members will be sought.
* The Animal Ethics Officer will provide administration support to the judging panel.
* Members of the panel will have appropriate expertise.
* Other individuals may be seconded to the panel; for example, to provide specific expertise.
* Members of the panel will be selected to avoid potential conflicts of interest, or if this is not possible, conflicts must be identified and managed appropriately.
* All members of the panel will read and rank the applications using a provided judging score sheet (taking account of any conflict as described above); the individual rankings will be discussed by teleconference, in person or via email, and a final ranking reached by consensus
* The ranked list will be provided to the Deputy-Vice Chancellor (Research) for approval.
* The Animal Ethics Officer will communicate the outcome to all applicants, and arrange for awarding of the prize and publicity as appropriate.
* The decision of the judging panel is final.

**Prizes**

* The prize will consist of a certificate and $2000 deposit into the successful applicant’s cost centre/project code. The prize is to be used by the applicant to enhance research outcomes and be consistent with UNE’s commitment to the 3Rs principles (for example improving environmental enrichment, conference travel, publishing costs, development of in vitro models).
* It is expected that the funding will be expended within 12 months of award. Upon expenditure of the award, the holder will provide a maximum two-page report to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), documenting how the award was used, the benefits derived and a brief summary of the research outcomes.
* At the discretion of the judging panel, co-awarding of the award to more than one applicant with a shared award prize may be considered. The judging panel may also make formal commendations to runners up for the award as it deems appropriate.

**Reporting**

Reporting of the judging panel is to the Deputy-Vice Chancellor (Research).