

## **Celebrating Early Childhood Leadership - Two International Awards**

### **Sponsored by the International Leadership Research Forum (ILRF)**

We are excited to announce the establishment of two special awards to celebrate research in Early Childhood Leadership across the world. Both awards are for **early career researchers**, defined as doctoral researchers working with their PhD research or employed as relatively new post-doctoral researchers.

Both awards recognise critical thinking and creativity of scholars working on early childhood leadership, and are aimed at fostering research leadership within our sector and beyond national borders. These awards are also aimed at encouraging innovative thinking and promote excellence in research that can strengthen theory-practice-policy connections.

At the ILRF Conference award ceremony, the award winners will:

- receive an international certificate of achievement
- be invited to submit a paper based on their PhD research for publication in an ILRF Research Monograph

**Eligibility criteria for each award is described below.**

#### **Award #1: ILRF Early Childhood Leadership Early Career Scholar Publication Award**

Eligibility criteria: To qualify for this award

- applicants must have been awarded their doctorate during the past five years (2018-2023).
- submit a PDF copy of one publication that has been published in the last three years (2020-2023).
- the publication can be a journal article, book chapter, or other peer reviewed written research output.
- write a 500 word statement or submit a 5 minute video of how the publication has stimulated discussion by addressing the judging criteria listed below.

#### **Award #2: ILRF Early Childhood Leadership Doctoral Thesis Award**

Eligibility criteria: To qualify for this award

- the thesis must be for a full PhD degree awarded from 1 January 2020.
- a copy of the examiners' reports must be submitted with the application
- applicants must submit a 1 000-word statement based on their thesis addressing the judging criteria listed below.

**Judging criteria and the process for reviewing applications for both awards are the same.**

Judging criteria: How does the publication or doctoral thesis

1. advance knowledge and understanding of early childhood leadership by making a contribution to theory, practice, research and/or policy?
2. stimulate critical thinking and innovation in researching early childhood leadership within their own country and/or world-wide?
3. contribute to improvements in policy and/or practice focusing on early childhood leadership?

Process for reviewing applications

An International Panel of ILRF scientific members will be established to assess applications for both awards. There will be three steps as follows:

1. Establish that applications meet the criteria for eligibility.
2. Assess each eligible application against the judging criteria.
3. Select one applicant to receive each award.

The International Panel may also request a copy of the full thesis and any additional information to assist in their decision-making.

Important:

- Applications will remain confidential throughout the review process.
- If the International Panel decides there are no applicants for the award that satisfies the judging criteria, no award will be presented.
- The final decision of the International Panel will be binding. That is, following the announcement of the decision, it will not be open to appeal and there will be no discussion with unsuccessful applicants to justify the decision.
- The **Early Career Scholar Publication Award** winner will be announced at the closing ceremony of the ILRF conference in 2024.
- The winner of the **Doctoral Thesis Award** will be contacted early to enable the person to have sufficient time to prepare for a presentation at the conference.

Applicants can self nominate or seek support from their supervisors to nominate them by completing the required documentation. The ILRF conference organizing committee encourages supervisors and colleagues to propose applicants.

Closing date for applications for both awards is: 31 March 2024

If you have any questions concerning these award applications, please contact:  
[manjula.waniganayake@mq.edu.au](mailto:manjula.waniganayake@mq.edu.au)

ILRF Award Application Form:

<https://link.webropolsurveys.com/Participation/Public/b76497bf-215e-4240-bb20-073d126149fc?displayId=Fin2971217>