

RCOT Research & Innovation Fund Early Innovator Prize marking criteria

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists Research and Innovation Fund awards prizes to two pre-registration BSc/MSc occupational therapy learners. This year we have the Early Researcher Prize for an outstanding research project and the Early Innovator Prize for an outstanding evidence-based service improvement project, each completed in the final year of the learner's degree programme. The Early Innovator Prize will be awarded to a learner that demonstrate significant early innovation skills, evidenced through completion of their evidence-based service improvement project.

This marking criteria is for the Early Innovator Prize.

Title:

Essential Criteria Nomination would be rejected if these criteria are not met. This is checked prior to sending to reviewers.	Yes/No	Comments
Learner is a BAOT member.		
Learner is in (or recently completed) the final year of their pre-registration occupational therapy programme.		
Innovation/service improvement has relevance to occupational therapy across any of the pillars of practice.		

Score key:

0: Inadequate / absent

1: good

2: excellent
3: outstanding

Abstract Criteria	Explanatory note	Score: 0, 1, 2 or 3	Comments
Structure, spelling, language and grammar	Is the abstract comprehensible and well presented?		
Clarity of focus, purpose, background or context.	<p>Is it clear what the learner set out to do, and why?</p> <p>Learners should demonstrate how their work has taken account of the context for current political/financial/professional/educational and/or theoretical drivers locally, nationally and/or internationally.</p>		
Clarity of method or approach to the issues under consideration	<p>Is the methodology clearly identified and appropriate to explore and evaluate the challenge?</p> <p>Are methods clearly explained?</p>		
Usefulness	Does the work improve upon existing practices? Does the work benefit people who access services? Does it address unmet needs or gaps in current practices?		

Extent to which the work can be considered novel, innovative, creative and/or engaging.	Is the work forward thinking and responsive to emerging challenges facing the context or profession? Does the work approach a challenge from an unexpected angle?		
HEI supporting statements criteria	Explanatory note	Score: 0, 1, 2 or 3	Comments
Clear reasoning as to why the nominee has outstanding service improvement skills	For example: Did the nominator identify a robustly executed, well-understood methodology? Did they discuss the excellence of the interpretation of the data? Did they note implications for practice?		
Personal attributes the nominee demonstrated	For example: Did the nominator mention the enthusiasm, passion or motivation of the nominee for their project and/or innovation/service improvement more broadly? Did they mention creativity or problem solving in regards to the service improvement? Did they mention utilising supervisors well or provide illustrative examples of this engagement?		

Learner reflection criteria	Explanatory note	Score: 0, 1, 2 or 3	Comments
Reflects on own learning	Reflects on what they learnt though the service improvement process, and identified how they will apply this learning in the future. This could be about service improvement methods, communication, using evidence, project management etc.		
Clearly outlines their findings and their implications for practice	Makes a strong case for the value of their service improvement. Clear explanation of how it could influence practice or how it relates to / illuminates / explains on existing theory. Bold, clear and inspiring.		
Demonstrates deep familiarity with the project	Learner's knowledge of and passion for the project are evident.		