

## RCOT Research & Innovation Fund Early Researcher 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 Researcher Prize will be awarded to a learner that demonstrate significant early research skills, evidenced through completion of their research project.

This marking criteria is for the Early Researcher Prize.

### Title:

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

### Score key:

0: Inadequate / absent

1: good

2: excellent

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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? Is it epistemologically and ontologically a good approach to addressing the research gap?</p> <p>Are methods clearly explained?</p>		
Usefulness	Does the work add something useful to the existing body of knowledge in the profession? Does the work benefit people who access services? Are there		

	clear implications for practice? Does it address a gap in the evidence base?		
Extent to which the work can be considered novel, innovative, creative and/or engaging.	Is the work cutting edge, new, interesting, exciting? Does it offer new knowledge, or a new perspective on existing knowledge?		

<b>HEI supporting statements criteria</b>	<b>Explanatory note</b>	<b>Score: 0, 1, 2 or 3</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Clear reasoning as to why the nominee has outstanding research 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 research more broadly? Did they mention creativity or problem solving in regards to the research? Did they mention utilising supervisors well or provide illustrative examples of this engagement?		

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<b>Learner reflection criteria</b>	<b>Explanatory note</b>	<b>Score: 0, 1, 2 or 3</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Reflects on own learning	Reflects on what they learnt though the research process, and identified how they will apply this learning in the future. This could be about research 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 research. 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.		