Royal College of Occupational Therapists

RCOT Merit Award

Assessment criteria summary

This summary is designed to help nominators and the nominee understand how Merit Award nominations are reviewed and assessed.

The Fellowship and Merit Awards Committee (FMAC) reviews all nominations against the published Merit Award criteria and supporting evidence.

When assessing nominations, the Committee considers both the achievement or contribution itself and the impact that achievement has had on occupational therapy, services, people accessing services and/or the wider profession.

Assessment areas considered by the FMAC

Assessment area	What the FMAC considers
Significant achievement or contribution	The nomination demonstrates a significant achievement or contribution to occupational therapy.
Innovation, improvement or excellence	There is evidence of innovation, improvement, or excellence within the nominee's area of practice, work, or expertise.
Impact and benefit	The nomination demonstrates a positive impact on people, services, communities, and/or the profession.
Influence	The nominee has demonstrated local, regional, specialist, or emerging influence.
Professional contribution	There is evidence of contribution to occupational therapy practice, education, research, and/or workforce development.

Supporting evidence considered by the FMAC

In addition to the nomination form itself, the committee considers whether:	
1.	The nominee's achievement or contribution extends beyond normal role expectations.
2.	There is evidence of measurable impact, outcomes, or improvement.
3.	The nomination demonstrates positive influence on others.
4.	The nomination demonstrates recognition by colleagues, stakeholders, and/or those who have benefited from the contribution.
5.	The nominee statement supports and strengthens the nomination.
6.	Letters of support/testimonials independently validate the nominee's achievement and impact.

7.	The overall nomination provides sufficient evidence to support recommendation for a Merit Award.

Assessment process

1. RCOT completes eligibility and administrative checks.
2. FMAC reviews nominations against the published criteria and supporting evidence.
3. FMAC makes recommendations to the RCOT Board.
4. The RCOT Board approves or rejects nominations.
5. Nominees and lead nominators are informed of the outcome.