

Teagasc Walsh Scholars Alum Award

Eligibility, Nomination, Selection Criteria and Judging Process

This document outlines the eligibility criteria, nomination process, selection criteria, and judging process for the Teagasc Walsh Scholars Alum Award.

1. The Award

The Walsh Scholars Programme is a leading postgraduate research training initiative by Teagasc, dedicated to developing intellectual capital in agriculture, food, environmental science, agri-food economics, rural development, and related disciplines. The Alum Award was created in 2018 to celebrate achievements of an exceptional nature by a member of the Walsh Scholars Alumni.

This award is an opportunity for Teagasc to reflect on, and celebrate, the tremendous achievements of the Programme's growing alumni network, who are working in academia, industry and policy, nationally and internationally.

This prestigious award is presented biennially, honouring exceptional alumni whose contributions exemplify excellence in their field.

2. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for the award, nominees must meet the following requirements:

- Nominees must have completed a PhD or Research Master's degree through the Teagasc Walsh Scholars Programme (formerly Fellowships/Scholarships) at a partner university.
- Current Teagasc employees are eligible, except for voting members of the Research Directorate Leadership Team or senior management.
- Nominees cannot be self-nominated.
- Current or past staff cannot nominate spouses or partners or other members of the immediate family.
- Alumni in a position of elected government office or known to be launching a political campaign are ineligible.
- Nominees must be living and available to attend the award ceremony and related promotional events in person.
- No posthumous nominations, unless otherwise determined by the Director of Teagasc.
- Cannot have previously received the award.
- Any nominee who does not meet the criteria above is automatically ineligible. Nominators of ineligible nominees will be informed that they do not meet the eligibility criteria.
- The Walsh Scholars Programme Manager, Director of Research and Heads of Programmes reserve the right to determine whether an individual is eligible at their absolute discretion.

3. Nominations

- The 2025 nominations are open from 17 February to the 21 March.
- Nominations can be made by:
 - Any member of Teagasc staff (present or retired), Teagasc and HEI supervisors (present and past), Alumni of the Walsh Scholars Programme, Industry partners/stakeholders, Active Walsh Scholars.
 - Other e.g. supporters of the Programme.
- Nominations must be made through the [Microsoft Forms nomination](#).
- Incomplete entry forms will be disregarded.
- Personal information submitted to Teagasc by the nominator will be given to the selection panel for the purpose of judging the awards and will be stored in the organisation's alumni database, if consent is provided.
- Nominations will be treated in confidence and will not be circulated outside of the Walsh Scholars Programme management team and the selection panel.
- Teagasc reserves the right to disclose the identity of the nominator to the nominee.
- If an application is not successful in a given award year, nominators are encouraged to repeat their nomination during the next award year's call.

4. Selection criteria

Nominees must meet at least one of the following criteria to be considered for the Alum Award:

- Demonstrated exceptional and noteworthy achievements in their professional career.
- Enhanced the reputation of Teagasc and the Walsh Scholars Programme through professional excellence and leadership.
- Made a significant positive impact through professional or voluntary contributions at local, national, or international levels.

5. Judging Process

The judging process follows these steps:

- The Walsh Scholars Programme Manager, Director of Research and Heads of Programmes review the nominations and shortlist three nominees.
- The shortlisted nominees are presented to the Director to make the final selection.
- The awardee is contacted privately in mid to late April 2025.
- The recipient's identity remains confidential until the official announcement on 15 May 2025

Contact: wsalumni@teagasc.ie