

2020 Excellence Awards Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible to be nominated for an Excellence Award?

All regular staff employees who are on the regular payroll and are not serving in a senior leadership role are eligible to be nominated for an Excellence Award. Seasonal or intermittent employees are not eligible.

2. Are faculty or students eligible for an Excellence Award?

No, these awards are meant to recognize staff accomplishments only.

3. Are union employees eligible? Yes.

4. Who can submit a nomination?

All members of the Brown community are welcome to nominate a colleague for an Excellence Award. Individual self-nominations are not accepted but team nominations may be submitted by a member of a larger team.

5. When should the work have been performed?

The Excellence Awards recognize staff accomplishments during FY2020.

6. What if a staff member started a project during FY2020, but hadn't completed it by fiscal year end?

Ideally, the work performed would have been accomplished during the last year. Realistically, however, work and projects overlap those dates. In general, a significant portion of the work should have taken place last year.

7. What is the process for selecting Excellence Award recipients?

A selection committee representing most of the University's organizational areas reviews and evaluates more than 125 nominations in late November or early December. First, committee members individually select 15 candidates who are outside of the organizational areas they represent. Committee members then meet as a group to review and discuss their top candidates; typically, 15 winners are ultimately selected. NOTE: With the COVID-19 pandemic, we anticipate a much larger pool of nominations this year, and selection committee members may be asked to pick their top 20-25 candidates to bring to the selection meetings.

8. What is the amount of an Excellence Award for individuals and teams, and when will the recipients be recognized?

*Excellence Award individual recipients will receive a \$2,500 after-tax award and will also be recognized at BEAR Day **at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021** (to be held virtually in 2021). Team winners will receive an equal share of the \$2,500 net award; in the event of a large team, each team member will receive a minimum award of \$500.*

9. Is there a minimum number of years a staff member has to be employed before being considered for a Rising Star award?

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Yes. A Rising Star Excellence Award is most appropriate for individuals who have been at Brown for a minimum of one year and no longer than three years of service.

10. Are there ways other than the Excellence Awards to recognize staff?

Yes! Studies indicate that employees find personal recognition more motivational than money. By taking the time to get to know your staff, you will discover how each likes to be recognized. Recognition is most effective if it's done soon after the accomplishment. Remember, a simple "thank you" for a job well done is always appropriate and will make your employee feel valued.

You might consider a small department celebration to recognize an individual or team accomplishment, either at an all-staff meeting or other departmental gathering. There are also opportunities for spot awards when you catch someone doing something right, peer to peer recognition, and other creative ways to acknowledge excellence in performance. Contact the Talent Development team at talentdevelopment@brown.edu for more information.

11. As a department head, should I coordinate all nominations from my area?

That is entirely up to you. However, consulting with your direct reports to proactively manage the nominations from your department ensures that the most deserving staff members are considered for an Excellence Award.

12. Should I ask all my colleagues to submit individual nominations for the same candidate to increase his or her chances of winning an Excellence Award?

No. A single, well written nomination is all you need. However, you could include a list of all the colleagues who endorse the nomination.

13. How will I know if my nominee(s) has been selected?

A priority announcement listing the individual and team winners will be published in Today@Brown in late Fall 2020.

14. If I have additional questions about the nomination and selection process, whom should I contact?

Please email Darlene Williamson at darlene_williamson@brown.edu. You can also email the Talent Development team at talentdevelopment@brown.edu.