

The RCN Award of Merit

The Award of Merit is the highest honour bestowed for voluntary service to the Royal College of Nursing

RCN Award of Merit Criteria

1. Consistently exceed expectations; performing at a level above and beyond normal benchmarks.
2. Has made important and significant contribution(s) in their role; and demonstrates their sustained commitment to the RCN and its core values.
3. Consistently demonstrates a high degree of professionalism by their commitment to work positively, respectfully and effectively to contribute to the aims and objectives of the RCN as enshrined in the RCN Charter.
4. Uses knowledge and expertise at every opportunity that adds distinction to the RCN and its core values.

Criterion 1 - evidence

Consistently exceeds expectations; performing at a level above and beyond normal benchmarks.

The application should provide evidence:

- to clearly demonstrate the candidate's extensive knowledge and competence within the submission
- to clearly demonstrate that the candidate has performed above and beyond normal requirements and expectations
- that clearly identifies the candidate's effective communications skills, use of initiative and timely delivery on a quality agenda on behalf of, or for, RCN members.

Criterion 2 – evidence

Has made important and significant contributions in their role; and demonstrates their sustained commitment to the RCN and its core values.

The application should provide evidence:

- that clearly demonstrates that the candidate has made important and significant contribution(s) be it locally, regionally, country and/or national levels
- that the candidate has demonstrated their clear and sustained commitment to the RCN and its core values
- within the submission, which supports the candidates conducting themselves in a manner that represents the RCN positively

Criterion 3 – evidence

Consistently demonstrates a high degree of professionalism by their commitment to work positively, respectfully and effectively to contribute to the aims and objectives of the RCN as enshrined in the RCN Charter.

The applicant should provide evidence:

- that the candidate clearly demonstrates a high degree of commitment and professionalism within the submission

- that the candidate has a positive attitude, which enables both them and others to positively influence and contribute to achieving the aims and objectives of the RCN.

Criterion 4 – evidence

Uses knowledge and expertise at every opportunity that adds distinction to the RCN and its core values.

The applicant should provide evidence:

- that the candidate has used their knowledge and expertise to demonstrate policy and practice and be a role model for the RCN
- that the candidate has demonstrated effective communications and use of initiative locally, regionally, country and/or UK wide
- within the submission that the candidate's work on behalf of the RCN is underpinned by its core values.

Approved by RCN Council 4 January 2022