Entry Form: LARIA Research Impact Awards 2024

Good luck in entering this year’s LARIA Research Impact Awards. These awards aim to showcase the impact research and data analysis has at a local level.

**Can I apply?**

The key criteria are that award winners should show us excellence in research and analysis that is making a real difference to the people they serve. The awards focus on research impact based on a sound evidence base. We will also be looking for entries that are demonstrating citizen/user involvement/engagement, partnership working, delivering positive outcomes, achieving efficiencies, and/or embracing innovation.

All entries must include at least one LARIA member and a public sector body. Entry is free to all LARIA corporate members. If you are not a member, please join (it only costs £160 all researchers/analysts in your organisation, or £20 as an individual); or you can pay a separate £160 fee to enter the awards without joining LARIA.

**What’s in it for you?**

LARIA strongly supports the awards to showcase how local researchers and analysts help public sector organisations make evidence-based decisions. By entering these awards we hope you will be able to identify how your work makes an impact. It is a good exercise in itself to consider the questions we ask, and we would encourage you to discuss your entry within your team and within your organisation and with partners. If shortlisted, and especially if you win, you will be showcased as demonstrating great practice in our sector. This will raise your profile both within your organisation and externally. We will also accept entries from independent researchers, providing they meet the criteria above. We will publish winning submissions, so you will be helping the sector by sharing good practice. An award will also demonstrate that your organisation or client values sound, evidence-based decision-making and research that makes a real impact.

**How to apply**

* Download this Word document onto your computer and save your responses directly onto this form.
* Please use one form per entry
* Please return to admin@laria.org.uk by **5pm Monday 7 October 2024.**

A panel of judges will shortlist and decide the winners. Should they determine that a nomination is suitable for another award, they may re-categorise the nomination. In the event of this happening, the person who submitted the entry will be contacted.

The shortlist will be published by mid-October, and awards will be presented at a special LARIA event on 26 November 2024, taking place at the Local Government Association in London.

We look forward to hearing from you and good luck.

Kate Waterhouse

Chair

LARIA

Award Categories

**A: Best use of local area research – sponsored by the Local Government Association**

To win this award the successful entrant will show how their research has led to a greater understanding of a local area, community or an issue that is locally important. This could be based on primary or secondary research. Not only that, but they must also show that this has led to evidence-based decision-making within at least one public sector body. Judges will be looking for submissions that show a sound methodology, clear reporting of the findings and impact; and will favourably consider strong partnership working, citizen/user involvement/engagement, innovation and the outcomes that have been achieved locally.



**B: Best use of data – sponsored by CACI**

To win this award the successful entrant will show how they have successful used data to aid understanding of a local area, community or an issue that is locally important. Not only that, but they must also show that this has led to evidence-based decision-making within at least one public sector body. Data for the purposes of this award is defined as the use of big data, administrative data, open data, business intelligence, data science and statistical analysis. Judges will be looking for evidence that data has been analysed and presented to a high standard for a specific business purpose or issue. The analysis will have delivered an insight that has aided decision-making. We would welcome entries that show the use of data in the day-to-day management of a service or in response to a crisis. Judges will be looking for submissions that show a sound methodology, clear reporting of the findings and impact; and will favourably consider strong partnership working, citizen/user involvement or engagement, innovation and the outcomes that have been achieved locally.

**C: Best use of data or research in a district council**

This award is targeted at shire district authorities, which often have fewer resources for research and data analysis than other types of council.  To win this award the successful entrant will show how they have successfully used research or data to aid understanding of a local area, community or issue, and how that led to evidence-based decision-making.  Judges will be looking for submissions that show a sound methodology, clear reporting of the findings and impact; and will favourably consider effective or innovative use of limited resources.

**D: Most engaging communication of local area research or analysis**

To win this award the successful entrant will show how they have successfully communicated local area research or analysis to aid understanding of a local area, community or an issue of local importance. The audience for this communication could include senior decision-makers, staff, the media and the public. The format of the communication could include (but is not limited to) a written report, conference presentation, event/seminar, videos, infographics, an online portal/website or use of media.  Judges will be looking for submissions that show a creative approach that understands the needs of the audiences receiving the information. There should be evidence that research findings have been reported clearly and are fairly represented by the communication of it. Judges will also favourably consider strong partnership working, citizen/user involvement/engagement, innovation and the outcomes that have been achieved locally. In entering the category, submissions can include a copy of the actual communications, including full or edited reports or links to online resources.

**E: New researcher of the year**

This award is given to a researcher or analyst with under five years of experience in a research field who has made an impact. This could be a person of any age. The entry could be based on a particular project they have led, an innovation they have pioneered or a particularly strong skill set. Their career to date should show a researcher who is able to conduct research or analysis that provides key insights, promotes citizen/user involvement/engagement, presents information well, and helps develop evidence-based decision-making in the public sector. We will accept entrants who have had a longer career in research than five years, but have moved into a new research field of which they have under five years of experience. The researcher cannot nominate themselves for this award.

**About the organisation or organisations who are entering**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of organisation(s) or independent researcher(s) entering the award** (as it will appear in any published document) |  |
| **Are you a public sector body?** (delete as applicable) | Yes/No |
| **Are you a Corporate LARIA member?** (entry is free for a Corporate Member, £150 for all other applicants including Associate or Ful Individual LARIA members) | Yes/No |
| **Do you agree to us publishing your award entry in full if you are shortlisted?** | Yes/No |

**Your contact details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| **Job title** |  |
| **Organisation** (if applicable) |  |
| **LARIA Member** (only LARIA members can enter awards) | Yes/No |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Tel number** |  |
| **In providing your contact details you are confirming that you take full responsibility for your award entry, and that you have already obtained all necessary permissions from the organisations on behalf of whom you are submitting your entry.** | |

**Your entry (LARIA Awards categories A-D)**

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| --- | --- |
| **Category you are entering** (delete as applicable; use form below for Category E) | **A: Best use of local area research**  **B: Best use of data**  **C: Best use of data or research in a district council**  **D: Most engaging communication of local area research or analysis** |
| **Name of your entry** (as it will appear in any published document) |  |
| **Summary of your entry**  ***Word limit***  ***(200 words)*** |  |
| **Methodology**  Describe the method you used for the research or analysis of your entry  ***Word limit***  ***(200 words)*** |  |
| **Wow factor**  Give us the most important lesson learned, fact discovered, or observation made from the work in your entry  ***Word limit***  ***(50 words)*** |  |
| **Synopsis**  How does your entry meet the criteria for this award?  What were the objectives and what impact did you have?  Describe any partnership working, citizen/user involvement/engagement and innovation, if applicable?  ***Word limit***  ***(500 words)*** |  |
| **What should LARIA members learn from your award entry?**  ***Word limit***  ***(200 words)*** |  |
| **Is there a published report or background information on your study publicly available? Please provide this link.**  (This may not be consulted as part of this submission, but we may publish a link if you are successfully shortlisted) |  |

**Your entry (LARIA Awards category E)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category you are entering** | **E: New researcher of the year** |
| **Name of new researcher** (as it will appear in any published document) |  |
| **How do you know the applicant?** (you cannot nominate yourself) |  |
| **I confirm this person has been employed as a researcher (or worked in this field of research) for under five years** | Yes/No |
| **Have you received permission from the applicant to make this submission?** | Yes/No |
| **Wow factor**  Give us the most important reason why they should win  ***Word limit***  ***(50 words)*** |  |
| **Summary**  How does this person meet the criteria for this award?  ***Word limit***  ***(300 words)*** |  |
| **Do they have a LinkedIn page, Twitter account or blog used in a professional capacity? Please provide this link.**  (This will not be consulted as part of this submission, but we may publish a link if they are successfully shortlisted) |  |

**Rules of entry**

1. Submissions must be made on the forms provided and within the word limits set out.
2. One form must be used for each entry.
3. All entries must be made by a LARIA member.
4. All entries for awards A-E can be entered by a private sector research company, but they must include at least one public sector body as a client/partner.
5. All entries made by a LARIA Corporate member will be made free of charge. If you are not a LARIA Corporate Member, please join before entering the awards (it only costs £160). If you do not wish to be a member you will need to pay £160 to enter the awards.
6. The main contact is responsible for ensuring all permissions have been sought within their organisation or partnership – especially in regards to the publication of information provided.
7. LARIA reserves the right to publish all the information provided in this entry in the form of a case study – this includes online – unless otherwise stated.
8. The judges’ decisions are final. LARIA will not enter into correspondence about why an entry was not selected as a finalist.
9. Please return to admin@laria.org.uk by **5pm, Monday 7 October 2024**.