

## Royal Society Kohn Award for Excellence in Engaging the Public with Science - Terms and Conditions

The terms and conditions below are for the 2012 award, and are provided for information; the terms for 2013 may change.

This document sets out the Conditions under which the Royal Society Kohn Award for Excellence in Engaging the Public with Science 2012 (the Award) is offered.

### 1 Introduction

Enquiries about the award should be addressed to:

Camilla Tham  
The Royal Society  
6-9 Carlton House Terrace  
LONDON  
SW1Y 5AG  
tel +44 (0)20 7451 2213  
e-mail: [awards@royalsociety.org](mailto:awards@royalsociety.org)

Where a word or phrase has a specific meaning in the context of the Award, the word or phrase will be capitalised, and will be defined in this document (eg Award, Public Engagement with Science Activities).

### 2 Outline of the Award

The Award was created to:

- Foster awareness in the scientific community, and in particular amongst Early-Career Scientists, of the importance of undertaking Public Engagement with Science Activities.
- Reward and recognise Early-Career Scientists who have undertaken high-quality Public Engagement with Science Activities, especially those that discuss with Public audiences the impact of science in broader society, and the social and ethical aspects related to science, and those that take the form of dialogue, and those that connect with decision-making and governance of science-related issues.
- Encourage Early-Career Scientists to adopt good practice in undertaking Public Engagement with Science Activities. Early-Career is defined for this Award to mean those that are five to twenty years into their career.
- Promote the work of individuals and organisations that influence others to participate in Public Engagement with Science Activities.

One Award will be made each year to a single Scientist (the Recipient) who has demonstrated excellence in their Public Engagement with Science Activity, and is judged by the Panel to meet with the Selection Criteria and other conditions described in this document.

The Award is generously funded by the Kohn Foundation. It provides a Gift to the Recipient of £2,500 and a Grant of up to a maximum of £7,500 to the Recipient to support further Public Engagement with Science Activities.

The Recipient will also be awarded a specially struck commemorative medal and s/he is required to receive the Award in person.

Full details of the nomination process, award criteria and award requirements, including the use of the Grant, are listed below.

### **3 Nomination process and timescale**

Two methods of nomination are permitted:

- Candidates may nominate themselves
- Proposers may submit a nomination for someone else (the Candidate).

Nominations should be made by email. All nominations should consist of a single email containing a completed nomination form and a short CV for the Candidate. Proposers submitting a nomination for someone else are encouraged to discuss their nomination with the Candidate, to ensure that their nomination fully addresses the selection criteria.

The Panel only considers the information presented to it in the nomination, and in the references, if taken. Proposers should ensure that the Application includes all relevant information on the Candidate's suitability for the award.

Nominations will be confirmed by email. If no email confirmation has been received by one week before the closing date, please contact the secretariat.

A nomination is valid for that year's award only. Unsuccessful previous Candidates are welcome to be nominated again. Previous winners may not be nominated again.

Referees may be contacted with a request for a short (emailed or written) Reference to the Royal Society. The Panel may not require all Referees to be contacted.

### **4 The Public Engagement with Science Activity**

The formal citation for the Award is to "reward excellence amongst practising scientists in their engagement with society in matters of science and its societal dimension."

So the panel will give strong preference to Public Engagement with Science Activity in one or more Topics of science that involves Public audiences and:

- Encourages discussion of the impact of science in broader society, and any implications for science and for society; and/or
- Discusses the social and ethical aspects related to science, and/or
- Takes the form of dialogue, where scientists are involved in two-way or multi-way discussion, conversation or debate between publics, scientists and other stakeholders; and/or
- Connects with decision-making on, or the governance of, science-related issues (at any scale, from local to international).

The Topic of the Public Engagement with Science Activity or the research area of the scientist involved can be any scientific or technological discipline within the remit of the Royal Society, ie the natural sciences,

including mathematics, engineering science, agricultural and medical research, the scientific aspects of archaeology, geography, and experimental psychology.

Public audiences must be included in the Public Engagement with Science Activity. Public audiences consist of any audience excluding professional scientists (as per the definition of scientists above) and excluding audiences that receive formal education directly from the Candidate (eg, the Candidate's students) during a formal education programme. Other than that, there is no restriction, nor any preference, for the audiences the Public Engagement with Science Activity includes.

The majority of Public Engagement with Science Activity undertaken by the Candidate should have been in the UK. At least one example of the Candidate's Public Engagement with Science Activity should have taken place in the twenty-four months preceding the closing date for nominations.

## **5 The Selection Criteria**

The Selection Criteria used by the Panel include the following. Proposers should ensure the nomination fully addresses these points:

- The quality of the Candidate's Public Engagement with Science Activities.
- The current or perceived future strategic impact of their Public Engagement with Science Activities on institutions, organisations and cultures, especially with regard to improving the quality and participation in Public Engagement with Science Activities by scientists.
- The impact of the award on the future development of the Recipient's career and their ability to further influence others to participate in Public Engagement with Science Activities.

## **6 Eligibility of the Candidate**

Career: For the purpose of this award we define:

- Scientists: those actively involved in research at a University, other research institution in the public or private sector, or in industry.

Career-stage - Early-Career: The Award is aimed at those who are five to twenty years into their career.

Residency: This award is open to citizens of a Commonwealth country or of the Irish Republic or those who have been ordinarily resident and working in a Commonwealth country or in the Irish Republic for a minimum of three years immediately prior to the date of nomination for the award and has not been resident therein wholly or mainly for the purposes of full-time education, during any part of that three-year period.

The Prize may not be made to any of the following at the time when Council decides who shall be the recipient:

- Members of the Council of the Royal Society
- Any person on the Michael Faraday Prize Committee at the time when the Committee makes its recommendations to Council.

## **7 Purpose of the gift**

The Award includes a gift of £2500 (the Gift), payable directly to the Recipient.

There are no restrictions on the use of the Gift by the Recipient. We do not require any information from the Candidate, Proposer or Recipient on the use of the Gift.

Any tax liabilities associated with the Gift must be assessed and borne by the Recipient.

## **8 Purpose of the Grant**

The grant of £7500 (the Grant) may be for any such Public Engagement with Science Activity as the Recipient desires, including but not limited to, a new activity, to supplement an existing activity, to allow the Recipient to participate prominently in such activities organised by others, to attend conferences on Public Engagement with Science Activity and other personal development activities.

The Grant will normally be paid to the institution of the Recipient. The Grant will be inclusive of all Value Added Tax and any other charges payable.

The Candidate is asked on the nomination form to outline how they would spend the Grant. However, the Panel will focus on the Selection Criteria listed in sections 4 and 5.

## **9 Obligations of the Recipient and Conditions of Award**

The recipient of the Prize is required to participate in an award event, on a date to be confirmed. Reasonable travel and accommodation costs for the Recipient to attend the award event will be payable by the Royal Society.

The Recipient will be required to provide a publicity photograph, to our specifications, for our use in connection with publicising the Award. We will also request that the Recipient participates in publicity activities, which we will discuss with the Recipient.

The Recipient must notify the Royal Society of any change in their status or location.

The Recipient will be required to report to the Royal Society within twelve months of the award, and a final report again within two years of the award if applicable. This report shall consist of at least one and a maximum of four pages of A4 outlining the Public Engagement with Science Activity undertaken by the Recipient, and a summary of the Grant spent to date. This may be published or disseminated at the discretion of the Royal Society.

Where the terms and conditions of the Award have not been observed, the Royal Society reserves the right to seek repayment of the Grant.