

Notes for the guidance of nominators and nominees for the Rosalind Franklin Award

Why was this Award set up?

The issue of the under-representation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is one that is increasingly in the spotlight.

As the National Academy of Science, the Royal Society is keen to address this issue, and the Rosalind Franklin Award is the Society's first Award focussed on promoting women in STEM and is funded by the DIUS.

As part of the nomination process for the Award all nominees are asked to put forward a proposal for a project that would raise the profile of women in STEM in their host institution and/or field of expertise in the UK. The grant is awarded to support their research and for activities s/he undertakes to promote women in STEM in the UK. The recipient of the Award will be expected to spend a proportion of the £30,000 award fund on implementing their project.

Who was Rosalind Franklin?

Rosalind Franklin was herself a great female scientist who discovered the first clear experimental evidence for the helical structure of DNA. Tragically, Franklin died from cancer aged 37. The 1962 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine was subsequently awarded to Maurice Wilkins, Francis Crick and James Watson for their work on DNA, and no reference was made to Franklin's pioneering work some years before. By naming this Award in her honour, the Society is recognising her achievements both as a scientist and as a role model for female scientists today.

Who can be nominated?

Nominees should have developed, alone or with others, an area of science, engineering or technology with which they are identified. Their research record should be of the type that would be suitable for the content of a keynote address at a major international conference in the relevant field.

There are no restrictions on the age of nominees, though it is anticipated that the award will be made to an individual in mid-career, with a maximum of 20 years post PhD or equivalent. Nominees who have taken a career break will also be considered. They should be actively involved in research at a University, other research institution in the public or private sector, or in industry. Nominations are welcomed for both men and women.

Nominees must fulfil UK residency requirements, as follows: the nominee has been ordinarily resident in the UK throughout the three-year period preceding the date of application 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.

What can the Award be spent on?

The award fund should be spent by the recipient on equipment, study tours or other research related activities. It may not be spent on the nominee's salary. Funding details can be found in the terms and conditions.

The funds should not be used for further research into the barriers faced by women in STEM. If the nominee has any previous experience or background in promoting women in STEM they should state it briefly on the nomination form. However nominations are also welcomed from those who have no previous experience of activities in this area. Some examples of the sorts of activities the nominee could consider are given below.

- Establishing a women's mentoring scheme within nominees host organisation.
- Setting up a mentoring/discussion group for women in the nominee's field of science to increase the exposure of women scientists to top names in the field.
- Writing a book to inspire women in STEM.
- Organising a workshop, seminar or conference.
- Organising a lecture tour to promote themselves (or others if the nominee is male) as a role model to women in STEM.
- Writing articles for quality newspapers and/or magazines to raise the profile of women in STEM.
- Give a series of talks to audiences of both men and women about the contribution of women in STEM.

How long are nominations valid?

Nominations are only valid for the year in which they are submitted. Should a nomination prove unsuccessful, the nominator must submit a revised nomination the following year if they wish their candidate to be reconsidered.

If your nomination is successful, a signature on behalf of the host institution is needed, supporting the application and agreeing to accept and administer the grant under the terms and conditions set by the Society.

How can one nominate?

Nominations consist of a statement from the nominator outlining the candidate's scientific record and suitability for the award, and a proposal by the nominee for spending a proportion of the award fund on activities they will undertake to promote women in STEM in their host institution and/or field of expertise.

Nominators should complete online form A. Please note: the referees' agreement must be obtained before submitting the proposal. At least one referee should not be a collaborator of the nominee

Nominees should complete online form B and should attach a copy of their CV and a list of up to 20 of their most important publications.

Nominees CV should be no longer than two pages of A4 and should include details of any prior work in the public understanding of STEM/woman in STEM; it should also include a summary of the nominees research.

A rationale for the project should be included in the description of the project on form B by the nominee, detailing how the project will help promote women in science or address any particular issues women face within a scientific career. The proposal should be one project that can be clearly identifiable as a Rosalind Franklin project