

The Royal Society medals and awards

Overview

The Royal Society has a broad range of medals including the Premier Awards, subject specific awards and medals celebrating the communication and promotion of science. All of these work to recognise and celebrate excellence in science. The following document provides guidance in the eligibility criteria for the awards, the nomination process and [online nomination system Flexi-Grant](#).

Eligibility

Awards are 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 being proposed. Three of our Premier Awards are open internationally and the Milner Award is open to European citizens and residents of 12 months or more. Full details of eligibility can be found in the Appendix.

Nominees cannot be members of the [Royal Society Council](#), [Premier Awards Committee](#), or selection Committees. More information about the selection committees for individual medals can be found in the Appendix. If the award is externally funded, nominees cannot be employed by the organisation funding the medal. **Self-nominations are not accepted** and members of the selection committee cannot nominate for their own awards.

Nominations are valid for three cycles of the award unless otherwise stated. Nominators are given the opportunity to update nominations in December each year.

The full list of medals that will be open in November 2019 are:

- [Copley Medal \(this round to be awarded in any field of biological sciences\)](#)
- [Royal Medals \(biological, physical and applied\)](#)
- [Croonian Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Bakerian Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Buchanan Medal](#)
- [Darwin Medal](#)
- [David Attenborough Prize and Lecture](#)
- [Davy Medal](#)
- [Ferrier Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Francis Crick Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Gabor Medal](#)
- [Hughes Medal](#)
- [Kavli Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Kavli Education Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture](#)
- [Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture](#)
- [Royal Society Africa Prize](#)
- [Royal Society Armourers & Brasiers' Company Prize](#)
- [Royal Society Athena Prize](#)
- [Royal Society Milner Award and Lecture](#)
- [Royal Society Mullard Award](#)
- [Rumford Medal](#)
- [Sylvester Medal](#)
- [Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar Medal and Lecture](#)

Nomination process

Call for nominations

- The call for nominations opens on the Royal Society's Anniversary Day – 29 November 2019.
- Nominations are open until 15:00 GMT on 27 January 2020.
- Self-nominations are not accepted and members of the selection committee cannot nominate for their own awards.

Review process

- Once nominations have closed two references are sought for all Royal Society medals and awards.
- Following referencing, all nominations are scored by the relevant committee. These scores are confidential and will be discussed by the relevant committee at a selection meeting held in the spring.
- Reference requests are confidential and only shared with the selection committee.

Approval of awards

- Following the selection committee meetings, recommendations for the majority of medals are made to the Premier Awards Committee for approval. More information about the selection committees for individual medals can be found in the Appendix. Please note not all of the medals listed in the Appendix will be opened this award cycle.
- Final approval is made by the [Royal Society Council](#) in May.
- The Royal Medal winners are subject to Her Majesty's approval which is normally received by July.

Notification of outcome

- It is expected successful winners and nominators will be informed by email in June.
- The Royal Medal winners and nominators will be informed in July following Her Majesty's approval.
- Unsuccessful nominations are not notified as most nominations are valid for three cycles of the medal. Nominators will be reminded to update nominations in December, in preparation for the next call for nominations. At this point nominators of expired submissions will also be notified.

Guidance notes for completing the nomination form

All nominations must be submitted using Flexi-Grant. If you do not have a Flexi-Grant account, please begin by [creating an account here](#) by clicking on "Register". If you already have an account, please select "Login". Once you have successfully created your account and logged in, you will be able to start an application for any medal and awards for which nominations are currently open.

When entering your contact information, please check that your organisation is already registered in Flexi-Grant by typing the name in the "lookup my organisation" section. If your organisation is not in our system, please email awards@royalsociety.org so we can add it. You will not be able to complete an application without this, so please email us right away so we can add this for you in good time.

Starting a nomination

- Once logged into the system the nominator can select which medal they are submitting a nomination for.

- Nominations can be saved to return to at any point before the deadline for nominations.

Nominator contact details (Page 1)

After clicking “Start” on the appropriate medal or award, you will be asked to confirm your contact details and organisational details as these will help track the nomination.

Nominee contact details (Page 2)

On the Nominee contact details page , please add the nominee’s contact details.

Nomination details (Page 3)

- Nominators are invited to provide information on why the nominee should be considered for the medal, a brief summary of the nominee’s career history and a statement of support
- Nominators are also required to list the nominee’s most significant achievements and contributions to science (maximum of 20 examples). Achievements and contributions may include commercialisation, entrepreneurial or industrial impacts, patents, open data sets, influence on policy outcomes, public engagement, collaborations or individuals instructed, methodological improvements, publications, etc.

Declaration (Page 4)

- Nominators are asked to receive positive consent from the nominees to share personal and career information with the Royal Society prior to submitting any applications.
- Nominators are asked to confirm that they have checked that the nationality of the nominee conforms to the eligibility criteria requirements (see Appendix).

Referees (Pages 5 and 6)

- Nominators are required to submit two referees for the nominee. These will be requested once nominations have closed and are shared with the selection Committees.
- Referees should be as independent as possible – i.e. not from the same department, nor have published/ collaborated together with the nominee in the last 5 years. The referees should also not be a member of the relevant selection committee (see Appendix for information on which is the relevant selection committee) nor the [Council of the Royal Society](#).

Marketing (Page 7)

- Nominators are required to state how they found out about the call for nominations. This information is used to help us market the call for nominations in future years.

Submitting the application

- Once all required fields have been completed the button in the top right will change from ‘nomination incomplete’ to ‘submit’.
- When satisfied with the nomination, confirm submission by clicking submit. **Please note it is not possible to edit the nomination once submitted.**
- An email should be received confirming receipt of the nomination. It is also possible to view the nomination once submitted and download a PDF copy.

Enquiries

For any further enquiries about the submission of nominations or any other matters related to the Royal Society’s awards, please contact the Scientific Programmes Team, The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG, by email to awards@royalsociety.org or calling 020 7451 2213.

Appendix

Note – not all medals are open for nomination each year

| | Stated purpose | Eligibility | Gift | Career stage (if stated) | Nomination validity | Selection Committee |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Premier awards | | | | | | |
| Copley Medal | For outstanding achievements in any field of science | International | £25,000 | Senior | 3 award cycles | Premier Awards Committee |
| Croonian Medal and Lecture | Premier lecture in biological sciences | International | £10,000 | Senior | 3 award cycles | Premier Awards Committee |
| Bakerian Medal and Lecture | Premier lecture in physical sciences | International | £10,000 | Senior | 3 award cycles | Premier Awards Committee |
| Royal Medal – physical sciences | For outstanding achievements in physical sciences | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £10,000 | Senior | 3 award cycles | Premier Awards Committee |
| Royal Medal – biological sciences | For outstanding achievements in biological sciences | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £10,000 | Senior | 3 award cycles | Premier Awards Committee |
| Royal Medal – applied sciences | For outstanding achievements in applied sciences | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £10,000 | Senior | 3 award cycles | Premier Awards Committee |
| Physical sciences medals | | | | | | |
| Clifford Paterson Medal and Lecture | For an outstanding researcher in the field of engineering | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 | | 3 award cycles | Physical Sciences Awards Committee |
| Davy Medal | For an outstanding researcher in the field of chemistry | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or | £2,000 | | 3 award cycles | Physical Sciences Awards Committee |

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| | | residents for 3 or more years | | | | |
| Hughes Medal | For an outstanding researcher in the field of energy | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 | | 3 award cycles | Physical Sciences Awards Committee |
| Royal Society Milner Award | For outstanding achievement in computer science by a European researcher or researcher who has had European residency for 12 months or more ¹ | European citizen or resident for at least 12 months. Nominees cannot be employed by Microsoft Research. | £5,000 | | 3 award cycles | Milner Award Committee |
| Leverhulme Medal | For an outstanding researcher in the field of chemical engineering and applied chemistry | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 | | 3 award cycles | Physical Sciences Awards Committee |
| Royal Society Armourers and Brasiers' Company Prize | For outstanding, pioneering and innovating materials science research with potential for application | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 | Mid-career/senior | 3 award cycles | Armourers & Brasiers' Company Prize Committee |
| Rumford Medal | For an outstanding researcher in the field of physics | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 | | 3 award cycles | Physical Sciences Awards Committee |
| Sylvester Medal | For an outstanding researcher in the field of mathematics | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 | | 3 award cycles | Physical Sciences Awards Committee |
| <i>Biological sciences medals</i> | | | | | | |
| Buchanan Medal | For distinguished contributions to the biomedical sciences | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or | £2,000 | | 3 award cycles | Biological Sciences Awards Committee |

¹ "European researchers" to include Council of Europe members and other countries within the landmass of Europe.'

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| | | residents for 3 or more years | | | | |
| Darwin Medal | For work of acknowledged distinction in evolution, biological diversity and developmental, population and organismal biology | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 | | 3 award cycles | Biological Sciences Awards Committee |
| Ferrier Medal and Lecture | For distinguished contributions on the structure and function of the nervous system | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 | | 3 award cycles | Biological Sciences Awards Committee |
| Francis Crick Medal and Lecture | On any field in the biological sciences. Preference is given to genetics, molecular biology and neurobiology, the general areas in which Francis Crick worked, and to fundamental theoretical work, which was the hallmark of Crick's science | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 | Early career, <15 years post PhD | 1 award cycles | Biological Sciences Awards Committee |
| Leeuwenhoek Medal and Lecture | To recognise excellence in the field of microbiology, bacteriology, virology, mycology and parasitology, and microscopy. | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 | | 3 award cycles | Biological Sciences Awards Committee |
| Royal Society Africa Prize* | To recognize research scientists based in Africa who are making an innovative contribution to the biological sciences, including basic medical science, which contributes significantly to capacity building the Africa. | African scientists | £17,000 (£15,000 research grant and personal gift of £2,000) | | 1 award cycle | Biological Sciences Awards Committee |
| <i>Interdisciplinary medals and those celebrating the communication and promotion of science</i> | | | | | | |
| Royal Society David Attenborough Prize and Lecture | Awarded to an individual for outstanding and sustained public engagement with science | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,500 | | 3 award cycles | Public Engagement Committee |

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| Gabor Medal | For acknowledged distinction of interdisciplinary work between the life sciences with other disciplines | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 | | 3 award cycles | Biological and Physical Science Awards Committee |
| Kavli Education Medal and Lecture | For impact in the field of science and mathematics education | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £1,000 | | 3 award cycles | Education Committee |
| Kavli Medal and Lecture | For excellence in all fields of science and engineering relevant to the environment | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £1,000 | Early career, <15 years post PhD | 3 award cycles | Biological and Physical Science Awards Committee |
| Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture* | To the scientist or engineer whose expertise in communicating scientific ideas in lay terms is exemplary | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,500 | | 3 award cycles | Public Engagement Committee |
| Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture* | To support the promotion of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £40,000 project grant and £1,000 personal prize. | Early career, <20 years post PhD | 3 award cycle | Rosalind Franklin Award Committee |
| Royal Society Athena Prize | For teams working in UK academic and research communities who have contributed most to the advancement of diversity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics within their communities | Scientists working in the UK | £5,000 | | 1 award cycle | Diversity Committee |
| Royal Society Mullard Award | To individuals whose work has the potential to make a contribution to national prosperity | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 gift and £1,500 travel grant | | 3 award cycles | Biological and Physical Science Awards Committee |

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| Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar Medal and Lecture | Given on a subject relating to the history of science, philosophy of science or the social function of science | UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years | £2,000 | | 3 award cycles | Library Committee |
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Additional guidance criteria for the following can be found on the nomination webpage:

- Royal Society Africa Prize
- Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture
- Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture
- Royal Society Athena Prize
- Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar Medal and Lecture
- David Attenborough Prize and Lecture
- Kavli Education Medal and Lecture