

The Royal Society Medals and Awards

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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 are awarded to recognise and celebrate excellence in science. The following document provides guidance on the timeline and eligibility criteria for the awards, the nomination process and our [online nomination system Flexi-Grant](#).

Timeline

- Call for nominations opens 30 November 2020
- Call for nominations closes on 15 February 2021
- Royal Society contacts suggested referees from February to March if required.
- Premier Awards, Physical and Biological Committees shortlist and seek independent referees from March to May
- All other Committees score and recommend winners to the Premier Awards Committee by April
- Premier Awards, Physical and Biological Committees score shortlisted nominations, review recommended winners from other Committees and recommend final winners of all awards by June
- Council reviews and approves winners from Committees in July
- Winners announced by August

Eligibility

Full details of eligibility can be found in the table.

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

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

No person should be awarded a subject-specific medal if they have already received a Royal Society Premier Award (Copley Medal, Royal Medals, Bakerian or Croonian Medal and Lecture).

Winners of Royal Society subject-specific medals remain eligible for future subject-specific awards and Premier Awards.

Winners of Royal Society Premier Awards remain eligible for another Premier Award, excluding winning multiple Royal Medals.

Please check the following table to check the eligibility criteria before nominating someone for an award. Please note not all medals are open to nomination every year. The full list of medals open for nomination this year is available below the table.

Eligibility Table: Note – not all medals are open for nomination each year

	Stated purpose	Eligibility	Gift	Career stage (if stated)	Nomination validity	Selection Committee
<i>Premier awards</i>						
Copley Medal	For outstanding achievements in any field of science (alternates physical and biological science each year)	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
<i>Physical sciences medals</i>						
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

		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.'

		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	3 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
<i>Interdisciplinary medals and those celebrating the communication and promotion of science</i>						
Royal Society Africa Prize*	To recognise research scientists based in Africa who are making an innovative contribution to the sciences, which contributes significantly to capacity building the Africa.	African scientists	£17,000 (£15,000 research grant and personal gift of £2,000)		3 award cycles	Biological and Physical Science Awards Committee
Royal Society Rising Star Africa Prize*	To recognise early-career research scientists based in Africa who are making an innovative contribution to the physical, mathematical and engineering sciences.	African scientists	£15,000 (£14,000 research grant and personal gift of £1,000)	Early career, <8 years post PhD	3 award cycles	Physical Science Awards Committee

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
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 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 cycles	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
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

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

Medals open for nomination - November 2020:

- [Copley Medal \(this round to be awarded in any field of physical sciences\)](#)
- [Royal Medals \(biological, physical and applied\)](#)
- [Croonian Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Bakerian Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Buchanan Medal](#)
- [Clifford Paterson Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Darwin Medal](#)
- [David Attenborough Prize and Lecture](#)
- [Davy Medal](#)
- [Francis Crick Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Gabor Medal](#)
- [Hughes Medal](#)
- [Kavli Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Leeuwenhoek Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture](#)
- [Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture](#)
- [Royal Society Africa Prize](#)
- [Royal Society Rising Star Africa 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 – 30 November 2020.
- Nominations are open until 15:00 GMT on 15 February 2021.
- Self-nominations are not accepted and members of the selection committee cannot nominate for their own awards.
- As well as information from the nominee, some nominations also require the input of a referee invited by the nominator.

Review process

- Once nominations have closed, suggested references may be asked to assess the nomination.
- For the Premier, Biological and Physical Awards Committees, an additional independent reference will assess the nomination after the pool of applicants is shortlisted by the relevant Committee.
- 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.

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 table above. Please note not all of the medals listed in the table will be opened this award cycle.
- Final approval is made by the [Royal Society Council](#) in July.
- 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 July.
- 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.
- The Royal Society will announce all winners publicly by August.

Guidance notes for submitting nominations

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.

Below you will find images of the application screens as you will see them. This is to assist you with gathering and ordering your nomination in the format it will be required. You can save the progress of your nomination and return to it at any time up until the deadline for submission.

Please note, the Africa Prize, Athena Prize, Milner Lecture and Rosalind Franklin Medal and Lecture have subject specific questions not outlined in the screenshots below. Additionally, the Africa Prize, Athena Prize and Rosalind Franklin Medal and Lecture, each require input from the nominee.

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.

Getting Started

As part of the application process we require your contact information. The contact information entered here is stored on an application by application basis and can be separate from your account details. If you enter details below that are different to your account, we will ask if you want to update your account contact details. Updating your account details is optional.

Your Contact Information Incomplete !

Title

First name * You cannot change your first name or last name. If your name is wrong the lead applicant can update your details, if you are the lead applicant contact our administrator.

Last name *

Contact Type *

Phone Number *

Email Address *

Your organisation and Your contact details

Lookup my organisation Q

Department

ORCID Identifier ID [Get my ORCID identifier](#)

Address *

City *

County

Postcode

Country *


Please note, you will need to contact the Royal Society by email at awards@royalsociety.org if your organisation does not appear in "Lookup my organisation". We will then include it in the system so that you make select it.

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. This page will auto-populate from your contact information from the Getting Started screen, but you have the opportunity here to add additional nominator contacts.

[Add person from our contacts +](#)

You must add at least 1 contact(s) with a full name, contact type, complete address, phone number and email specified.

Contact name	Contact type	Phone	Email	Address complete
 Get my ORCID Identifier	Primary Applicant			Yes Edit

[Add more contacts +](#)

[Add organisation from our contacts +](#)

You must add at least 1 organisation(s) with a name, organisation type, complete address, phone number and email specified.

host organisation	Organisation name	Organisation type	Phone	Address complete
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Royal Society	Academy or Learned Society		Yes Edit

[Add organisation +](#)

You will then see the Application Dashboard: you can save your progress on any section at any time and track it from this home screen.

Number	Page	Est. time to complete	Status	Required documents
1	Nominator contact details	5 mins	Not Started	Start
2	Nominee contact details	10 mins	Not Started	Start
3	Nomination details	1 hour	Not Started	Start
4	Declaration	1 min	Not Started	Start
5	Nominated Referee 1	10 mins	Not Started	Start
6	Nominated Referee 2	10 mins	Not Started	Start
7	Marketing	1 min	Not Started	Start

Nominee contact details (Page 2)

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

Nominee contact details

Title *

First name

Surname

Honours

Organisation


Email address

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.

This is the main body of the nomination, and you can see here how the information needs to be divided, and word counts for each portion of the nomination.

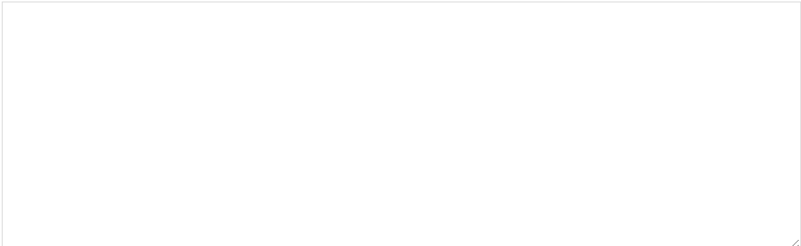
Why should the candidate be considered for this medal?



*

You have entered 0 words (30 words max)

Provide a brief summary of the nominee's career history.



*

You have entered 0 words (500 words max)

List the nominee's key achievements

Please list the nominee's most significant achievements and contributions to science (maximum 20 examples).



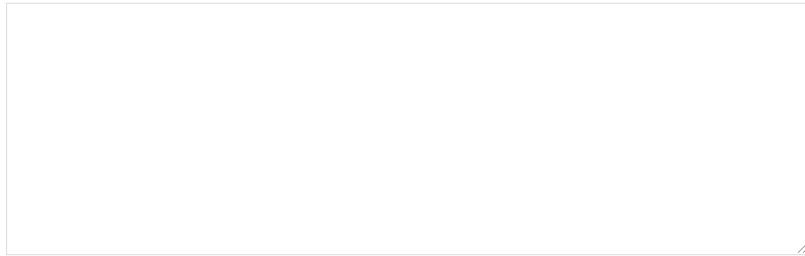
You have entered 0 words (1000 words max)

Please provide information on any other relevant achievements or awards.



You have entered 0 words (500 words max)

Statement of support

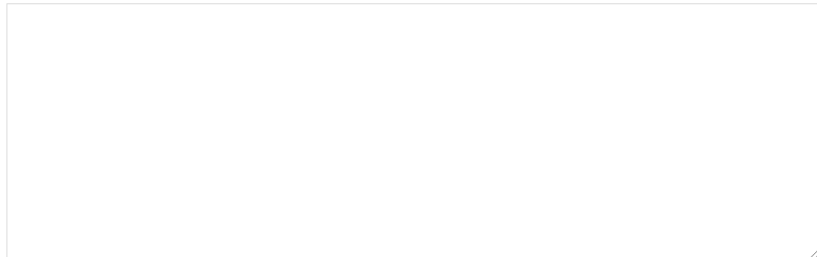


*

You have entered 0 words (500 words max)

Nominations for medals which are awarded along with a corresponding prize lecture will also require the following question to be completed:

Provide evidence of the nominee's ability to communicate with non-specialist audiences, for example public lectures, engagement and media activities.



*

You have entered 0 words (500 words max)

Relationship of proposer to candidate

*

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 table above).

These questions should be answered by the nominator.

Declaration

Please declare that:


- You have read the Privacy Policy.
- You have received the verbal or written consent of the nominee(s) for their information included in the application to be used for the purpose of considering their nomination. Please note the application may be shared with relevant funders or external contacts.
- You have read the Eligibility Guidelines for this award and confirm that the nominee qualifies.

Please note that your declaration will be taken as a sign that your electronic signature is the legal equivalent to your wet signature on this application form

Declaration
I hereby declare that the information provided in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

*

Nominator Name *

Date  *

Referees (Pages 5 and 6)

- Nominators for some awards are required to submit two referees for the nominee. These will be requested once nominations have closed and are shared with the selection Committees.
- Awards selected by the Premier Awards Committee and the Joint A and B Awards committee do not require referee details to be included in the nomination. However suggested referees may be contacted by the committees if included.
- 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 table for information on which is the relevant selection committee) nor the [Council of the Royal Society](#).

Referee 1

Title *

First name *

Surname *

Honours *

Organisation *

Email address *

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 for your records.

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.