

The Royal Society Medals and Awards

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Overview

The Royal Society has a broad range of awards that celebrate and recognise excellence in science. The following document provides guidance on the timeline, eligibility criteria and nomination process for the awards, including guidance on using our [online nomination system Flexi-Grant](#).

Timeline

30 November 2021	Call for Nominations opens
25 February 2022	Call for Nominations closes
26 February – mid May	Royal Society contacts suggested referees where required. Premier Awards, Physical and Biological Committees shortlist and seek independent referees.
By end June	All committees score nominations.
By end July	Council reviews and approves winners recommended by award committees
By end August	Winners announced.

Eligibility

Specific eligibility criteria for each award can be found in the table below but the following general points should be noted by nominators:

- 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 award criteria below before nominating someone for an award. Please note that not all medals are open to nominations every year. The full list of medals open for nomination this year can be found on page 9.

Eligibility Table: To note – not all medals are open for nomination every year

	Stated purpose	Eligibility	Gift	Career stage (if stated)	Nomination validity	Group eligibility	Selection Committee
Premier awards							
Copley Medal	For sustained, outstanding achievements in any field of science (alternates physical and biological science each year)	International	£25,000	Senior	3 award cycles	YES	Premier Awards Committee
Croonian Medal and Lecture	Premier lecture in biological sciences - for sustained, outstanding achievements in biological sciences	International	£10,000	Senior	3 award cycles	YES	Premier Awards Committee
Bakerian Medal and Lecture	Premier lecture in physical sciences - for sustained, outstanding achievements in physical sciences	International	£10,000	Senior	3 award cycles	YES	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	YES	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	YES	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	YES	Premier Awards Committee
Physical sciences medals							
Clifford Paterson Medal and Lecture	For outstanding contributions in the field of engineering.	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	YES	Physical Sciences Awards Committee

Davy Medal	For outstanding contributions in the field of chemistry	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	YES	Physical Sciences Awards Committee
Hughes Medal	For outstanding contributions in the field of energy	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	YES	Physical Sciences Awards Committee
Royal Society Milner Award	To recognise an outstanding European computer scientist, someone who has made a substantial contribution and who is likely go on to further top-level achievement	European ¹ citizen or resident for at least 12 months. Nominees cannot be employed by Microsoft and its affiliates.	£5,000		3 award cycles		Milner Award Committee
Leverhulme Medal	For outstanding contributions 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	YES	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 outstanding contributions in the field of physics	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	YES	Physical Sciences Awards Committee
Sylvester Medal	For outstanding contributions in the field of mathematics	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	YES	Physical Sciences Awards Committee

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

Biological sciences medals							
Buchanan Medal	For distinguished contributions to the biomedical sciences	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	YES	Biological Sciences Awards Committee
Darwin Medal	For work of 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	YES	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	YES	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	YES	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	YES	Biological Sciences Awards Committee
Interdisciplinary medals and those celebrating the communication and promotion of science							
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	YES	Public Engagement Committee
Gabor Medal	For 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	YES	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	YES	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	YES	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	YES	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	YES	Diversity Committee
Royal Society Mullard Award	To individuals or teams 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	YES	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	YES	Library Committee
Royal Society Hauksbee Medal	For outstanding achievements in science by those whose work is mostly 'behind the scenes' or in support, including technicians, research office staff or other contributors who might not normally be recognised	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	YES	Biological and Physical Science Awards Committee
Royal Society Research Culture Award	For outstanding contributions to the wider research community	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	YES	Biological and Physical Science Awards 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 2021:

- [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](#)
- [Francis Crick Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Ferrier Medal](#)
- [Gabor Medal](#)
- [Hughes Medal](#)
- [Leverhulme Medal](#)
- [Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture](#)
- [Royal Society Africa Prize](#)
- [Royal Society Athena Prize](#)
- [Royal Society Armourers and Brasiers' Company Prize](#)
- [Royal Society Hauksbee Award](#)
- [Royal Society Research Culture Award](#)
- [Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture](#)
- [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 2021.
- Nominations are open until 15:00 GMT on 25 February 2022.
- 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 nominations where references are requested as part of the nomination form.
- For the Premier, Biological and Physical Awards Committees, independent references will assess the nomination after the pool of applicants is shortlisted by the relevant Committee.
- Following the collection of references, 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 that not all of the medals listed in the table will be opened this award cycle.
- Final approval is given by the [Royal Society Council](#) at their July meeting.
- 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, during the next call for nominations.
- The Royal Society will announce all winners publicly in late August.

Guidance notes for submitting nominations

Background information

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 cannot complete an application if your organisation is missing, so please email us as soon as possible so we can add it 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 should 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 can 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. 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
1	Nominator contact details	5 mins	Not Started
2	Nominee contact details	10 mins	Not Started
3	Nomination details	1 hour	Not Started
4	Declaration	1 min	Not Started
5	Marketing	1 min	Not Started

Nominee contact details (Page 2)

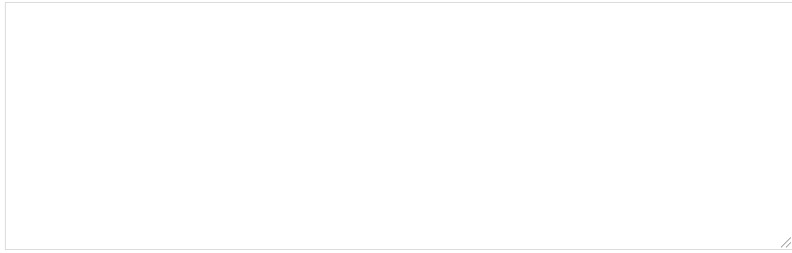
On the Nominee contact details page, please add the nominee's contact details.

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.

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)

List the nominee's key achievements

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



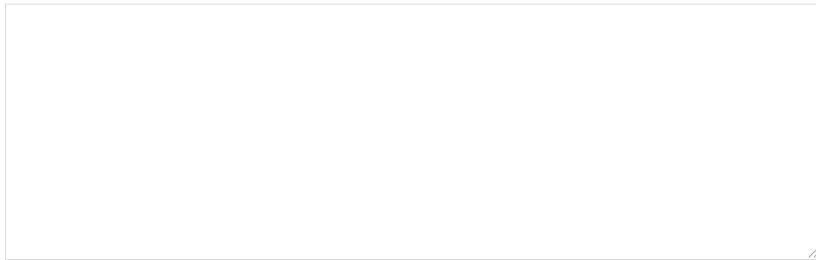
You have entered 0 words (1000 words max)

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



You have entered 0 words (500 words max)

Please provide information on any other relevant achievements or awards.

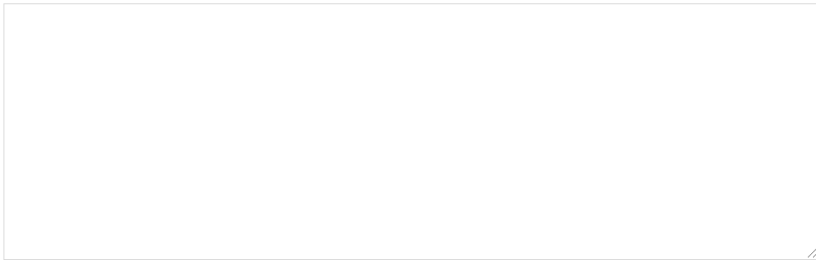


*

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)

Statement of support

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 nominee conforms to the eligibility criteria requirements (see table above).

QB

Declaration
By checking the box you 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.
- You are happy for your identity as nominator to be shared with the nominee.

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..
- Where/if requested, 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 5/7)

- 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.