
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 UK's 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 BEIS.

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 the UK. The grant of £40,000 is awarded to support their project to promote women in STEM in the UK and their personal research. The recipient of the Award can spend up to £10,000 of the grant on their personal research. The recipient of the Award will also receive a gift of £1,000.

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 women in science 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 with 6 – 20 years post PhD, with a maximum of 20 years FTE post PhD or equivalent by the closing date of the round. Nominees who have taken a career break will also be considered and are encouraged to apply. 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 individuals of any gender and particularly from underrepresented groups.

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?

Barriers to the promotion of women in STEM exist at all levels between school and a professional career, as well as systematic barriers in academic institutions that contribute to the 'gender leaky pipeline'. The proposed project can address such a barrier at any level.

The project should not be used for research into the barriers faced by women in STEM or to tackle an alleged problem within a particular academic department or institution.

The personal research element of the award should be spent by the recipient on equipment, study tours or other research related activities. It can also contribute towards the salary of a research assistant (PDRA, postgraduate research assistant, technician). It may not be spent on the nominee's salary. Funding details can be found in the terms and conditions.

What are the criteria for selection?

Nominees need an established track record of very high standing in any area of STEM. The other criteria are:

- The innovation and likely effectiveness of the project for attracting, supporting or retaining more women in STEM by fostering real change and addressing a key barrier to gender equality in STEM
- Evidence of the skills and experience to deliver the project effectively
- The ability to deliver an inspiring public lecture

How long are nominations valid?

Nominations are valid for three award cycles as long as the years post PhD criteria continues to be met. Should a nomination prove unsuccessful, nominators will be invited to update their nomination each active nomination year.

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 a project on activities they will undertake to promote women in STEM .

Nominations should be submitted online via the Society's [Flexi-grant system](#). Please register for an account, fill out all the required information and ensure that the correct nomination form is selected. Nominees should begin the nomination and invite the nominator to collaborate on the nomination using the 'Participants' tab.

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 – ie 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 [Rosalind Franklin Award Committee](#) nor the [Council of the Royal Society](#).

Please see the general Medals and Awards guidance notes for further information on how to use Flexi-grant.

The nominee will also be asked to list their 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.

The nominee should describe previous work on outreach and/or on promoting women in STEM. The nominee's CV should be no longer than two pages of A4 and should include a summary of the nominee's research.

A rationale for the project should be included in the description of the project given 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.

If part of the grant fund is to be spent on the nominee's personal research, a brief case should be made for the research component.

Links may be given, if so desired, to online videos of the nominee giving a talk.