

David Attenborough Award and Lecture

The David Attenborough Award and Lecture is awarded annually to an individual for outstanding public engagement with science. The award, open to everyone, will recognise high quality public engagement activities.

Criteria, terms and conditions

1. Awarded to an individual for outstanding public engagement with science.
2. The Public Engagement Committee will look for evidence of high quality public engagement activities, which may include examples of innovation, impact and reach, when reviewing the nominations.
3. The prize will be awarded annually unless, in the judgement of the Public Engagement Committee, no suitable candidate has been nominated.
4. The prize is open to everyone except members of the Council of the Royal Society at the time the award is decided, or members of the Public Engagement Committee at the time the Committee scores the nominations or makes its recommendation to the Council.
5. The nomination of a candidate is made by a nominator (which may be an individual or an institution) via the Society's online system and should include the names and contact details of two referees. Nominators should make nominees aware of their nomination. Self-nomination is not acceptable.
6. A nomination remains valid for three years; under exceptional circumstances the Committee may decide that a nomination can remain valid for a fourth year. An unsuccessful candidate may be re-nominated after a gap of one year. Previous winners may not be nominated again.
7. The scientific topics covered by the public engagement activities can be any science or technical discipline within the remit of the Royal Society i.e. the natural sciences, including mathematics, engineering science, agriculture and medical research, the scientific aspects of archaeology, geography, and experimental psychology.
8. For the purposes of this prize 'the public' excludes professional colleagues and students that the candidate teaches regularly.
9. Teams are not normally considered except where each member has made an individual and clearly identifiable contribution.
10. The prize is open to citizens of the British Isles or a Commonwealth country, or those who have been ordinarily resident and working in the British Isles or a Commonwealth country for a minimum of three years immediately prior to being nominated.
11. The award is a silver-gilt medal and a gift of £2,500. The winner is invited to give two presentations - one at the Royal Society and one at an external location – or to discuss other opportunities to share their work with public audiences.

Nomination form

The nomination form is comprised of four sections. The sections and text fields are listed below. It is recommended to draft responses before copying them into the nomination form, although the nomination form can be saved at any point and revisited.

Section 1 – Nominator contact details

Section 2 – Nominee contact details

Section 3 – Nomination details

- Why should the candidate be considered for this medal? (30 words max)
- Provide a brief summary of the nominee's career history. (500 words max)
- List the nominee's key achievements. Please list the nominee's most significant achievements and contributions to science - maximum 20 examples. (1000 words max)
- Please provide information on any other relevant achievements or awards. (500 words max)
- Statement of support. (500 words max)
- Provide evidence of the quality of the nominee's public engagement activities. This may include examples of impact, innovation and reach. (500 words max)
- Relationship of proposer to candidate.

Section 4 – Nominated Referee 1 and 2