The Royal Society Medals and Awards: Nomination guidance

Table of contents

Overview and timeline - Page 1
The nomination process - Page 2
Eligibility - Page 4
Guidelines for nominators - Page 10
How to make a nomination - Page 11

Overview

The Royal Society has a broad range of awards that celebrate and recognise excellence in science. This document provides guidance on the timeline, eligibility criteria and nomination process for the awards, including step by step guidance on using the nomination system.

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 November 2023</td>
<td>Call for Nominations opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 February 2024</td>
<td>Call for Nominations closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 February – mid May</td>
<td>Royal Society contacts suggested referees where required. Premier Awards, Physical and Biological Committees shortlist nominations and seek independent referees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By end June</td>
<td>All committees score the nominations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By end July</td>
<td>Council reviews and approves winners recommended by award committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By end August</td>
<td>Winners announced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Nomination process

Call for nominations
- Nominations close on 23 February 2024, 23:59 GMT

Review process
- Once the call for nominations has closed, committees are invited to review and score each nomination within their remit.
- Following the collection of references, nominations are shortlisted, and most awards are scored for a second time. Awards with only 1 scoring round are the Armourers and Brasiers' Company Prize, the Milner Award, the Hauksbee Award, and all awards selected by the Public Engagement Committee and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee.
- These scores are confidential and will be discussed by the relevant awards committee at a selection meeting held in the spring.

Approval of awards
- Following the selection meetings, recommendations for the winners of the majority of medals are made to the Premier Awards Committee for approval. More information about the awards committees for individual medals can be found in the table on pages 5-9. The flowchart below shows the committee decision-making process.
- Final approval is given by the Royal Society Council at their July meeting.
- The Royal Medal winners are subject to His Majesty's approval which is normally received by July.

Notification of outcome
- Successful winners and nominators will be informed by email in July.
- The Royal Medal winners and nominators will be informed in July following His Majesty's approval.
- Unsuccessful nominations will be notified and reminded that the award will remain valid for 3 cycles.
- We aim to inform nominators in advance of the public announcement of winners.
- The Royal Society will announce all winners publicly in late August.
The Royal Society award committees’ decision-making process**

The Royal Society Council

Premier Awards Committee

Joint Biological and Physical Awards Committee
Public Engagement Committee
Diversity Committee
Milner Award Committee
Armourers and Brasiers’ Company Prize Committee

Library Committee

** This chart represents the committee decision-making process (for awards only)
Eligibility

Specific eligibility criteria for each award can be found in the table on pages 5-9, but the following general points should be noted by nominators:

- Nominees cannot be members of the 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 eligibility table on the next few pages.

- If the award is externally funded, nominees cannot be employed by the organisation funding the medal.

- Self-nominations are not accepted except for the Athena Prize. The Africa Prize, Rising Star Africa Prize, and Rosalind Franklin Medal and Lecture, each require input from the nominee.

- Nominations are valid for three cycles of the award unless otherwise stated. Unsuccessful nominations will automatically rollover to the next award cycle unless the nominee’s circumstances have changed so as to make them ineligible. Nominators are given the opportunity to update previously submitted nominations during the nomination window each year and we encourage them to do so.

- 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 are not eligible for another subject-specific award unless the nomination is for an entirely new body of work.

- Winners of Royal Society Premier Awards are not eligible for other Premier Awards unless the work is substantially different from the case made for the original award, except for the Copley Medal.

- Winners of subject-specific awards are eligible for Premier Awards whether or not the body of work is substantially the same as that for the subject-specific award.

Please check the award criteria below before nominating someone for an award. A link to any further guidance and criteria is included where applicable. The full list of medals open for nomination this year can be found on pages 5-9.
Eligibility Table: The following awards are open this year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Stated purpose</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Gift</th>
<th>Career stage (if stated)</th>
<th>Nomination validity</th>
<th>Group eligibility</th>
<th>Selection Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Premier awards</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copley Medal</td>
<td>For sustained, outstanding achievements in any field of science (alters physical and biological science each year).</td>
<td>International</td>
<td>£25,000</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>3 award cycles</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Premier Awards Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croonian Medal and Lecture</td>
<td>Premier lecture in biological sciences - for sustained, outstanding achievements in biological sciences.</td>
<td>International</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>3 award cycles</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Premier Awards Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakerian Medal and Lecture</td>
<td>Premier lecture in physical sciences - for sustained, outstanding achievements in physical sciences.</td>
<td>International</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>3 award cycles</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Premier Awards Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Medal – physical sciences</td>
<td>For outstanding achievements in physical sciences.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>3 award cycles</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Premier Awards Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Medal – biological sciences</td>
<td>For outstanding achievements in biological sciences.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>3 award cycles</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Premier Awards Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Medal – applied sciences</td>
<td>For outstanding achievements in applied sciences.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>3 award cycles</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Premier Awards Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical sciences medals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davy Medal</td>
<td>For outstanding contributions in the field of chemistry.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 award cycles</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Physical Sciences Awards Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughes Medal</td>
<td>For outstanding contributions in the field of energy.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 award cycles</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Physical Sciences Awards Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 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

---

### Royal Society Armourers and Brasiers’ Company Prize

For outstanding, pioneering and innovating materials science research with potential for application.

UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years

£2,000

Mid-career to senior

3 award cycles

Armourers & Brasiers’ Company Prize Committee

---

### Rumford Medal

For outstanding contributions in the field of physics.

UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland 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/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years

£2,000

3 award cycles

YES

Physical Sciences Awards Committee

---

### Biological sciences medals

#### Buchanan Medal

For distinguished contributions to the biomedical sciences.

UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland 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/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years

£2,000

3 award cycles

YES

Biological Sciences Awards Committee

---

\(^{1}\) “European” to include Council of Europe members and other countries within the landmass of Europe.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medal and Lecture</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Award Cycles</th>
<th>Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ferrier Medal and Lecture</strong></td>
<td>For distinguished contributions on the structure and function of the nervous system.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>Biological Sciences Awards Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Francis Crick Medal and Lecture</strong></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>Biological Sciences Awards Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Interdisciplinary medals and those celebrating the communication and promotion of science**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medal and Lecture</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Award Cycles</th>
<th>Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Royal Society Africa Prize</strong></td>
<td>To recognise research scientists based in Africa who are making an innovative contribution to the sciences, which contributes significantly to capacity building the Africa.</td>
<td>African citizen, based in Africa</td>
<td>£17,000 (£15,000 research grant and personal gift of £2,000)</td>
<td>Senior researcher, &gt;15 years post PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Royal Society Rising Star Africa Prize</strong></td>
<td>To recognise early-career research scientists based in Africa who are making an innovative contribution to the physical, mathematical and engineering sciences.</td>
<td>African citizen, based in Africa</td>
<td>£15,000 (£14,000 research grant and personal gift of £1,000)</td>
<td>Early career, &lt;15 years post PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Royal Society David Attenborough Prize and Lecture</strong></td>
<td>Awarded to an individual for outstanding and sustained public engagement with science.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£2,500</td>
<td>Public Engagement Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award Name</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>Prize</td>
<td>Award Cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabor Medal</td>
<td>For distinction of interdisciplinary work between the life sciences with other disciplines.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>3 award cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture</td>
<td>To the scientist or engineer whose expertise in communicating scientific ideas in lay terms is exemplary.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£2,500</td>
<td>3 award cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture</td>
<td>To support the promotion of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.</td>
<td>UK citizens or residents for 3 or more years.</td>
<td>£40,000 project grant and £1,000 personal prize.</td>
<td>Early career, &lt;20 years post PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Society Athena Prize</td>
<td>Teams working in UK academic and research communities, who have contributed most to the advancement of STEM.</td>
<td>UK based teams. Self-nominated.</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
<td>1 award cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Society Mullard Award</td>
<td>To individuals or teams whose work has the potential to contribute to national prosperity.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£2,000 gift and £1,500 travel grant</td>
<td>3 award cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilkins- Bernal-Medawar Medal and Lecture</td>
<td>Given on a subject relating to the history of science, philosophy of science or the social function of science.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>3 award cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award Name</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>Award Cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Society Hauksbee Award</td>
<td>For outstanding achievements in science by those whose work is mostly 'behind the scenes' or in support, such as technicians, research office staff or other contributors who might not normally be recognised.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>3 cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Society Research Culture Award</td>
<td>For outstanding contributions to the wider research community.</td>
<td>UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland citizens or residents for 3 or more years</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>3 cycles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Guidance for Nominators**

Below are some guidelines for consideration when preparing your nomination and supporting statement.

**Before you begin**

- Please take time to read the eligibility criteria for the awards on pages 5-9 to ensure that the nominee you are putting forward meets the requirements.
- There are no eligibility restrictions for nominators, and you do not need to be a Fellow of the Royal Society to nominate or to be nominated for an award.
- Nomination questions are the same for most awards except for the Africa Prize, Milner Lecture, Rising Star Africa Prize and Rosalind Franklin Medal and Lecture, which also contain subject specific questions. We recommend that you preview the [Nominator questions](#) before you start so that you can gather any information you might need.

**What makes a good nomination?**

- The Royal Society is keen to receive nominations for the very best candidates that represent the full diversity of the scientific community, from a broad range of academic institutions, career stages and industries, as well as international nominations (where eligible).
- Awards that come with a prize lecture are awarded to outstanding scientists who are also exceptional communicators. A good nomination for this type of award should provide evidence that the nominee is an engaging and experienced communicator.
- When making your nomination, it is important that you know the work of the nominee well enough to build a strong case for why they are deserving of the award. Committees are looking for a compelling account of the importance of the nominee’s work, their outstanding achievements, and contributions to science.
- A good nomination should describe as well as possible the difference the nominee’s contribution has made. Consider what distinguishes your nominee from others doing similar work and provide details to support these claims.

**Please note:**

1. **the Africa Prize, Rosalind Franklin Medal and Lecture and Rising Star Africa Prize**, each require input from the nominee.
2. **the Athena Prize** is a self-nominated award for UK based teams, therefore the questions will differ from the standard nominator questions linked above.
How to make a nomination

All nominations must be submitted using the Royal Society Awards system. 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:

1. the Africa Prize, Milner Lecture, Rising Star Africa Prize and Rosalind Franklin Medal and Lecture have subject specific questions not outlined in the screenshots below. The questions can be found in the individual guidance documents linked above in the eligibility table.
2. the Athena Prize is the only self-nominated award, and the questions are not outlined in the screenshots below, but can be found in the individual guidance documents linked in the above eligibility table.
Starting a nomination

Visit: Medals and Awards: Your nomination dashboard - The Royal Society

1. Register for an account. Please input email, click send verification code, wait a few minutes for the code to arrive and then continue with the rest of the registration details.
2. Click on ‘create nomination’ and then select the award you wish to submit a nomination for from the dropdown list.
3. Check the eligibility of the nominee. This varies by award, and full details can be found in the eligibility table on pages 5-9 of this document.

Step 1 – Eligibility

Read more about Example Award

Nomination: Example Award

Has the Nominee been a UK/Commonwealth/Republic of Ireland resident for 3 or more years? *

☐ Yes ☐ No

Save & continue
4. Input **your details as nominator** (person making the nomination). Here you will also have the option to preview the upcoming questions, by clicking the 'Preview questions' button.

**Step 2 - Nominator details**

Please enter your contact details below.

Nomination: Example Award

What is your relationship to the nominee?

Title

Honours

Preferred telephone number

Please include country code if outside the UK

Current organisation

Current position
5. Nominee contact details:

If you are nominating an individual or a team of 3 or less, please enter the details of each individual in the form.

If nominating a larger team, then enter the details of a lead contact person into the ‘Nominee 1’ section and enter a team name in the provided field.

Step 3 - Nominee details

Nomination: Example Award


Team Name

Nominee 1

First name *

Last name *

Email address *

Job title *

Institution *
6. Please answer all questions in this section.

1. Award selection/eligibility
2. Nominator details
3. Nominee details
4. Nomination details

Why should the candidate be considered for this medal? *

List the Nominee’s key achievements *

Provide a brief summary of the Nominee’s career history *

Please provide information on any other relevant achievements or awards held by the Nominee *

Statement of support *
7. Once the ‘Nomination details’ section is complete, click ‘save and continue’. You will then see the message below. Ensure that you click on ‘Return to nomination list’.

Please note, you cannot edit your nomination once it has been submitted.

You can now go back in and edit your nomination if you wish. If you have no further edits, you can submit your nomination by clicking ‘Submit’ under the ‘Actions’ heading. Once you press submit on the nomination list dashboard, you will receive a confirmation email shortly after. You can also download a pdf of the nomination for your records here.

Enquiries
For any further enquiries about nominations or any other matters related to the Royal Society’s awards programme, please contact the Medals and Awards Team based at The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG, by email to awards@royalsociety.org or by telephone on 020 7451 2543.