
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, which is optional and up to £10,000 of the total grant fund, 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 [portal](#). Please register for an account, fill out all the required information and ensure that the correct nomination form is selected. A nominator will need to start the nomination and provide statements for support. They will input the contact details of the nominee, who will then be emailed to complete the form details and project plan information.

Nominators are required to submit two referees for the nominee. These will be requested once the nomination is completed, and they will be shared with the selection Committees. 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 [Rosalind Franklin Award Committee](#), the [Diversity and Inclusion Committee](#), nor the [Council of the Royal Society](#).

Please see the general Medals and Awards [guidance notes](#) for further information on how to use the portal.

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.

Nomination form

The nomination form is comprised of five 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 and revisited. Some sections are for the nominator to complete, and others should be completed by the nominee.

Nominator Questions:

Step 1 – Eligibility

- Does the Nominee/Nominated team work in the UK?
 - Please confirm the nominee has been a UK resident for three years.
- Can you confirm that it has been <20 years since the Nominee received their PhD?
 - This does not include career breaks, i.e. a person may be 25 years post-PhD and still eligible if they had a career break of 5 years or more.

Step 2 – Nominator details

This section asks for contact details for the nominator.

Step 3 – Nominee details

This section asks for contact details for the nominee, who will be contacted to complete the nomination and their project proposal.

Step 4 – Nomination details

- Comment on the Nominee's scientific standing (Maximum 500 words).
- Comment on the Nominee's project, as well as their previous activities in outreach and promoting women in STEM (Maximum 500 words).

Step 5 – Referees

Please provide the contact details for two referees to support the nomination.

The nominator will then need to submit the nomination to open it for the nominee to complete their details.

Nominee questions:

(Note: all questions have a 500 word count maximum)

- Number of full time equivalent (FTE) years of active research since gaining PhD
- Please outline the activities for your proposed project aimed at raising the profile of women in STEM in the UK
- What is the intended timescale to implement these activities?
- Please describe the target audience for the project and the project's intended impact
- How will the activities be monitored and evaluated?

- What is the division of the funds between the different aspects of the project?
- Outline the activities of the proposed research element and the division of funds, if any
- Any other comments
- List your key achievements
- Please upload a copy of your CV.

Contact

Please contact Diversity@royalsociety.org should you wish to discuss a nomination.