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## 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 is awarded to support their research and for activities they undertake to promote women in STEM in the UK. The recipient of the Award will be expected to spend at least half of the £40,000 award fund on implementing their project, and the rest on their research, but there is flexibility for up to 100% of the grant to be spent on the project. 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 female scientists 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 post PhD or equivalent by the closing date of the round. Nominees who have taken a career break will also be considered. 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 both men and women.

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?**

The award fund should be spent by the recipient on equipment, study tours or other research related activities. The award fund can also contribute towards salary of research assistant (PDRA, postgraduate

research assistant, technician) to support the project. It may not be spent on the nominee's salary. Funding details can be found in the terms and conditions.

The funds should not be used for further research into the barriers faced by women in STEM. If the nominee has any previous experience or background in promoting women in STEM they should state it briefly on the nomination form. However nominations are also welcomed from those who have no previous experience of activities in this area. Some examples of the sorts of activities the nominee could consider are given below.

- Establishing a women's mentoring scheme within nominee's host organisation.
- Setting up a mentoring/discussion group for women in the nominee's field of science to increase the exposure of women scientists to top names in the field.
- Writing a book to inspire women in STEM.
- Organising a workshop, seminar or conference.
- Organising summer schools, workshops or conferences to encourage schoolgirls into STEM, undergraduates into research, or PhD students into postdoctoral research
- Organising a lecture tour to promote themselves (or others if the nominee is male) as a role model to women in STEM.
- Writing articles for quality newspapers and/or magazines to raise the profile of women in STEM.
- Giving a series of talks or making online videos for audiences of both men and women about the contribution of women in STEM.

#### **What are the criteria for selection?**

The two main criteria are the scientific excellence of the candidate and the effectiveness of the project being proposed. Previous activity in outreach and promoting women in STEM will also be considered.

#### **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 spending at least half of the award fund on activities they will undertake to promote women in STEM in their host institution and/or field of expertise.

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 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