

# The Royal Society Athena Prize 2022

## Eligibility criteria

### The Athena Prize 2022

The Royal Society Athena Prize ('the Athena Prize') is awarded biennially (in even years) and recognises teams "working in UK academic and research communities, who have contributed most to the advancement of diversity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) within their communities."

The Athena Prize aims to:

- Recognise the efforts of teams who have significantly contributed to good practice and the advancement of diversity in STEM
- Recognise projects or initiatives that benefit the wider STEM community
- Inspire others to provide leadership and innovation in diversity issues.

The Athena Prize will be awarded biennially unless, in the view of the Athena Prize judging panel, no suitable candidate team has been nominated. In this situation, the Athena Prize will not be awarded in 2022 and nominations will re-open in 2024.

The Athena Prize award is a medal and a gift of £5,000. The winning team will be invited to take part in a video about their work and to discuss other opportunities to share their project or initiative with public audiences.

The Athena Prize judging panel will consider the difference that an initiative or project has made to engendering and supporting a culture of diversity and inclusion within STEM institutions and organisations. The judging panel will consider the following:

- Progress and impact – what is different as a result of the project or initiative?
- Sustainability – how will the project or initiative be maintained?
- Innovation and inspiration – what is new?
- Transferability – how could the project or initiative be transferred to other STEM institutions or organisations?

## Eligibility

- The Athena Prize 2022 will be awarded to a team for significantly contributing to good practice and the advancement of diversity and inclusion in STEM.

- To be eligible to apply, teams must be working in an academic or research community in the UK.
- Teams must be clearly defined and the names of all team members must be specified on the application. There is no limit on the size of the team that can apply.
- For the purposes of the Athena Prize, “team” includes University STEM departments and faculties. It also includes teams who have founded or are leading a network, but does not include all members of a particular network.
- Previous individual or team Athena Prize winners may **not** reapply. Individuals who had formerly been part of a winning Athena Prize team may be included if they are now part of a different team.
- Previously unsuccessful Athena Prize applicants may apply again.
- For the purposes of this Prize, ‘diversity’ is used in its broadest sense and includes (but is not limited to) projects or initiatives relating to gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and LGBTQ+, neurodiversity, social background and religion/belief. Projects or initiatives may cover one or more of these areas.
- The nomination of a candidate team is made by a proposer (who 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 the candidate team aware of their nomination. Self-nomination is not acceptable.
- Members of the [Council of the Royal Society](#), members of the Royal Society [Diversity Committee](#), and members of the judging panel at the time the award is decided, will not be eligible for the Athena Prize.

It is recommended to also consult the guidance for nominators document before submitting a nomination.

### **Contact**

Enquiries about the Athena Prize should be sent to: [diversity@royalsociety.org](mailto:diversity@royalsociety.org).