

The Royal Society medals and awards

Overview

The Royal Society has a broad range of medals including premier awards, subject specific awards and medals celebrating the communication and promotion of science. All of these work to recognise and celebrate excellence in science. The following document provides guidance in the eligibility criteria for the awards, the nomination process and online nomination system.

Eligibility

Awards are open to citizens of a Commonwealth country or of the Irish Republic or those who have been ordinarily resident and working in a Commonwealth country or in the Irish Republic for a minimum of three years immediately prior to being proposed. Three of our premier awards are open internationally and the Milner Award is open to European citizens and residents of 12 months or more. Full details of eligibility can be found in Appendix one.

Nominees cannot be members of the Royal Society Council, Premier Awards Committee, or selection Committees. If the award is externally funded, nominees cannot be employed by the organisation funding the medal. Self-nominations are not accepted and members of the selection Committee cannot nominate for their own awards.

Nominations are valid for three cycles of the award unless otherwise stated. Nominators are given the opportunity to update nominations in December each year.

The full list of medals that will be open in November 2017 are:

- [Copley Medal](#)
- [Royal Medals](#) (biological, physical and interdisciplinary)
- [Croonian Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Bakerian Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Buchanan Medal](#)
- [Darwin Medal](#)
- [Davy Medal](#)
- [Ferrier Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Francis Crick Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Gabor Medal](#)
- [Hughes Medal](#)
- [Kavli Education Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Kavli Medal and Lecture](#)
- [Leverhulme Medal](#)
- [Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture](#)
- [Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture](#)
- [Royal Society Africa Prize](#)
- [Royal Society Armourers and Brasiers' Company Prize](#)
- [Royal Society Athena Prize](#)

- [Royal Society Milner Award](#)
- [Royal Society Mullard Award](#)
- [Rumford Medal](#)
- [Sylvester Medal](#)
- [Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar Medal and Lecture](#)

Nomination process

Call for nominations

- The call for nominations opens on the Royal Society's Anniversary Day – 30 November 2017.
- Nominations are open until 18:00 GMT on 29 January 2018.
- Self-nominations are not accepted and members of the selection Committee cannot nominate for their own awards.

Review process

- Once nominations have closed a minimum of two references are sought for all the Royal Society medals and awards. Additional reference reports may be sought on recommendation of the Committee.
- Following referencing, all nominations are scored by the relevant Committee. These scores are confidential and will be discussed by the relevant Committee at a selection meeting held in March/April.
- Reference requests are confidential and only shared with the selection Committee.

Approval of awards

- Following the selection committee meetings, recommendations for the majority of medals are made to the Premier Awards Committee for approval. The Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture is approved by the Public Engagement Committee, The Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar Medal and Lecture is approved by the Library Committee, The Kavli Education Medal and Lecture is approved by the Education Committee, The Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture is approved by the Rosalind Franklin Committee, The Royal Society Athena Prize is approved by the Diversity Committee, The Royal Society Armourers and Brasiers' Company Prize is approved by the Armourers & Brasiers' Company Prize Committee, and The Royal Society Milner Award by the Milner Award Committee.
- Final approval is made by the Royal Society Council in May.
- The Royal Medal winners are subject to Her Majesty's approval which is normally received by July.

Notification of outcome

- It is expected successful winners and nominators will be informed by letter in June.
- The Royal Medal winners and nominators informed in July following Her Majesty's approval.
- Unsuccessful nominations are not notified as nominations are valid for three cycles of the medal. Nominators will be reminded to update nominations in December, in preparation for the next call for nominations. At this point nominators of expired submissions will also be notified.

Completing the nomination form

All nominations, apart from the Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture, Royal Society Africa Prize, Royal Society Mullard Award and the Royal Society Athena Prize are submitted using an online form. Royal Society Fellows can log into the system using their e-Fellows account, all other nominators are able to create an account.

Nominators and nominees for Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture, Royal Society Africa Prize, Royal Society Mullard Award and the Royal Society Athena Prize are required to complete separate forms and submit the forms to awards@royalsociety.org. The forms can be found on the [Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture](#), the [Royal Society Africa Prize](#), the [Royal Society Mullard Award](#) or the [Royal Society Athena Prize](#) page.

Starting a nomination

- Once logged into the system the nominator can select which medal they are submitting a nomination for.
- Nominations can be saved, to return to at any point before the deadline for nominations.

Nominee details

- Nominators are to complete personal information about the nominee.
- Nationality is required as many of our awards are restricted geographically, details of this can be found in appendix 1.
- As some medals have career stage restrictions each nomination includes the length of time in active research since gaining PhD or equivalent.

Nomination details

- Nominators are invited to provide information on why the candidate should be considered for the medal.
- Nominators are required to upload a list of publications in PDF format. Please note nominators are required to select the PDF file, then confirm upload before the file is saved.

Referees

- Nominators are required to submit two referees for the candidate. These will be requested once nominations have closed and are confidential.

Marketing

- Nominators are required to state how they found out about the call for nominations. This information is used to help us market the call in future years.

Submitting the application

- Once all required fields have been completed the button in the top right will change from 'nomination incomplete' to 'submit'.
- When satisfied with the nomination, confirm submission by clicking submit. **Please note it is not possible to edit the nomination once submitted.**
- An email should be received confirming receipt of the nomination. It is also possible to view the nomination once submitted and download a pdf copy.

Enquiries

For any further enquiries about the submission of nominations or any other matters related to the Royal Society's awards, please contact the Scientific Programmes Team, The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG, by email to awards@royalsociety.org or calling 020 7451 2213.

**Appendix
one**

	Stated purpose	Eligibility	Gift	Career stage (if stated)	Nomination validity	Selection committee
<i>Premier awards</i>						
Copley Medal	For outstanding achievements in any field of science	International	£25,000	Senior	3 award cycles	Premier Awards Committee
Croonian Medal and Lecture	Premier lecture in biological sciences	International	£10,000	Senior	3 award cycles	Premier Awards Committee
Bakerian Medal and Lecture	Premier lecture in physical sciences	International	£10,000	Senior	3 award cycles	Premier Awards Committee
Royal Medal – physical sciences	For outstanding achievements in physical sciences	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£10,000	Senior	3 award cycles	Premier Awards Committee
Royal Medal – biological sciences	For outstanding achievements in biological sciences	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£10,000	Senior	3 award cycles	Premier Awards Committee
Royal Medal – applied sciences	For outstanding achievements in applied sciences	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£10,000	Senior	3 award cycles	Premier Awards Committee
<i>Physical sciences medals</i>						
Davy Medal	For an outstanding researcher in the field of chemistry	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	Physical Sciences Awards Committee
Hughes Medal	For an outstanding researcher in the field of energy	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or	£2,000		3 award cycles	Physical Sciences Awards Committee

		residents for 3 or more years				
Royal Society Milner Award	For outstanding achievement in computer science by a European researcher or researcher who has had European residency for 12 months or more	European citizen or resident for at least 12 months. Nominees cannot be employed by Microsoft Research.	£5,000		3 award cycles	Milner Award Committee
Leverhulme Medal	For an outstanding researcher in the field of chemical engineering and applied chemistry	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	Physical Sciences Awards Committee
Royal Society Armourers and Brasiers' Company Prize	For outstanding, pioneering and innovating materials science research with potential for application	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000	Mid-career/senior	3 award cycles	Armourers & Brasiers' Company Prize Committee
Rumford Medal	For an outstanding researcher in the field of physics	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	Physical Sciences Awards Committee
Sylvester Medal	For an outstanding researcher in the field of mathematics	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	Physical Sciences Awards Committee
Biological sciences medals						
Darwin Medal	For work of acknowledged distinction in evolution, biological diversity and developmental, population and organismal biology	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	Biological Sciences Awards Committee
Ferrier Medal and Lecture	For distinguished contributions on the structure and function of the nervous system	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	Biological Sciences Awards Committee

Buchanan Medal	For distinguished contributions to the biomedical sciences	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	Biological Sciences Awards Committee
Francis Crick Medal and Lecture	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	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000	Early career, <15 years post PhD	1 award cycle	Biological Sciences Awards Committee
Royal Society Africa Prize*	To recognize research scientists based in Africa who are making an innovative contribution to the biological sciences, including basic medical science, which contributes significantly to capacity building the Africa.	African scientists	£12,000 (£11,000 research grant and personal gift of £1,000)		1 award cycle	Biological Sciences Awards Committee
<i>Interdisciplinary medals and those celebrating the communication and promotion of science</i>						
Gabor Medal	For acknowledged distinction of interdisciplinary work between the life sciences with other disciplines	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	Biological and Physical Science Awards Committee
Kavli Education Medal and Lecture	For impact in the field of science and mathematics education	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£1,000		3 award cycles	Education Committee
Kavli Medal and Lecture	For excellence in all fields of science and engineering relevant to the environment	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£1,000		3 award cycles	Biological and Physical Science Awards Committee
Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture*	To the scientist or engineer whose expertise in communicating scientific ideas in lay terms is exemplary	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,500		3 award cycles	Public Engagement Committee

Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture*	To support the promotion of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£30,000 project grant	Early career, <20 years post PhD	1 award cycle	Rosalind Franklin Award Committee
Royal Society Athena Prize	For individuals and teams working in UK academic and research communities who have contributed most to the advancement of diversity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics within their communities	Scientists working in the UK	£5,000		1 award cycle	Diversity Committee
Royal Society Mullard Award	To individuals whose work has the potential to make a contribution to national prosperity	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000 gift and £1,500 travel grant		3 award cycles	Biological and Physical Science Awards Committee
Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar Medal and Lecture	Given on a subject relating to the history of science, philosophy of science or the social function of science	UK/Commonwealth/Irish Republic citizens or residents for 3 or more years	£2,000		3 award cycles	Library Committee

Additional guidance criteria for the following can be found on the nomination webpage:

- Royal Society Africa Prize
- Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture
- Rosalind Franklin Award and Lecture