

# Guidelines for applicants 2021

## Nature Research Awards for Inspiring Women in Science, Science Outreach Category.

**This information is subject to change due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and any resulting restrictions.**

### 1. Introduction

The Nature Research Awards for Inspiring Women in Science - Science Outreach Category, is presented for initiatives that support girls or young women to engage with, enjoy and study STEM subjects OR to increase the retention of women in STEM careers. STEM includes natural sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine. These initiatives can be run by an individual or academic, educational, charitable, governmental or corporate entity. In the case of corporate entities, the initiatives should form part of a corporate social responsibility programme and not be part of core commercial operations.

### 2. Eligibility

We accept applications from organizations, departments, individuals (of any gender) or project teams. Please nominate one spokesperson who will be our point of contact and represent the winning entry at the award ceremony.

We are looking for initiatives that have either:

- encouraged girls or young women to engage with and study natural sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine

OR

- increased retention of women in STEM careers, with a focus on providing tools to support women through their career progression in a STEM discipline.

Entries will have shown exceptional vision, insight and/or imagination and demonstrated that they encourage, support or promote the interest of girls and/or women in STEM.

### 3. How to apply

**Applications must be submitted through the [online application form](#).** The questions you will need to answer are listed below for reference. Entries must be complete (that is, all required fields are complete) and submitted by 20th June 2021 23:59 BST to be eligible.

By submitting this application you agree that:

- you have read and accepted the award [terms and conditions](#).

- your personal data will be used as part of, and to communicate with you about, the Nature Research Awards programme. You can remove your details by emailing [awards@nature.com](mailto:awards@nature.com). For more information view our [Privacy Policy](#).

### ***Eligibility***

I represent an initiative that has:

- encouraged girls or young women to engage with and study STEM  
OR
- increased retention of women in STEM careers, with a focus on providing tools to support women through their career progression in a STEM discipline.

Please select the area(s) of STEM that the initiative covers:

- natural sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine

The initiative is run by [please select the category]:

- an individual , academic entity, educational entity, charitable entity, governmental entity or corporate entity, other [please describe]

If corporate, I confirm:

- initiative is part of a corporate social responsibility programme and not part of core commercial operations

The initiative is focused primarily on girls/women and benefits greater than 50% girls/women

### ***Applicant and initiative details***

- Full name of the individual or academic, educational, charitable, governmental or corporate entity responsible.
- Name of the initiative
- Address of the initiative - including city, country and postal/ZIP code
- Name of contact spokesperson
- Job title of contact spokesperson
- Email of contact spokesperson
- Phone number (including country code) of contact spokesperson
- Please define the exact involvement of the spokesperson in the described initiative
  - Organizer
  - Participant
  - Started the initiative
  - Other

### ***Description of initiative***

This section is to inform the later questions and is not scored

- Please provide a 50 word summary of what your initiative does - pitch the initiative to us in a concise and informative way (maximum 50 words)
- Provide links to your website and/or social media accounts.
- What % proportion of your target group consists of girls or women?
  - If less than 100%, please explain how the initiative is focused primarily on girls/women
- For how many years has your initiative been running?
- Specify the exact countries in which your initiative has an impact and briefly describe how the initiative operates in each country (maximum 300 words).

This section is scored

- Why did you start the initiative? (maximum 200 words)
- Please describe your mission statement and goals? (maximum 200 words)
- How often do you organize activities?
  - Daily
  - Once a week
  - Once a month
  - Once a year
  - Other
- Please select the method(s) used to deliver your initiative's activities.
  - Social media
  - Blog posts
  - Website
  - One-on-one contacts (in person, email or phone)
  - Lecture
  - Workshop, science fair
  - Networking event
  - Other [provide details]
- Describe how the method(s) selected are used for running the initiative. If you operate in different countries, please describe how the method varies in each country. (maximum 200 words)
- What methods do you use to measure the success of your initiative? (Maximum 150 words)
- Please list 6 examples of the results of these methods - 3 using quantitative (numerical) data and 3 using qualitative data (such as anecdotal evidence, quotes, comments or testimonials, social media). (maximum 100 words per example).
- How many girls/women have you reached to date, since you started your initiative? Please list a number.
- Please state how many additional girls/women you plan to reach in next 12 months? Please list a number.
- Please describe your **existing** plans for the next 12-24 months of your initiative, showing how you will increase the reach or improve the impact of the initiative. (maximum 500 words).
- Please breakdown a simple budget (showing spend per item) of how would you use the additional \$40,000 to further improve and scale up the initiative. (maximum 300 words)
- Describe how your initiative would benefit from the prestige of winning this award? (maximum 200 words)

Additionally we invite you to describe the particular challenges, professional or personal, that your initiative has faced during the course of your science outreach (maximum 500 words).

\*This question will not be scored but will be used to provide context should your application proceed to the judges' panel discussion.

### **Shortlist Profile**

If your application is shortlisted, the responses to the following points will constitute your profile on the shortlist page of the awards website. This section is not judged:

- Introduce the project and your organization, department or group and tell us a little about what it does (maximum 150 words).
- What are some of the challenges that the project or organization has faced whilst working on engaging girls and young women with STEM or supporting women to stay in STEM and what lessons have you learnt (maximum 150 words)?
- What advice would you give to someone wanting to do STEM outreach (maximum 150 words)?
- Please include a short statement about why it is important to encourage more girls to be interested in/engage with STEM subjects, or to support more women to stay in STEM. (maximum 200 words).
- Please provide an organization logo (organisations) or photo (personal applicants), in high-resolution 150 x 150 pixel JPEG format.

NB: Parts of the above will be used on the website, mentoring site and across promotional materials.

I confirm that I hold the permissions for this logo/photograph.

## **4. Terms and conditions for applicants**

By applying, applicants agree to the [terms and conditions](#) of the award programme.

## **5. Evaluation process and criteria**

Applications will be assessed by our expert [judging panel](#) consisting of editors from Nature Portfolio, independent experts and experts from our corporate partner, The Estée Lauder Companies. Each award category will have a separate judging panel. Panel members will review applications to create a shortlist of applicants for each award category. The full panel will then meet to discuss the merits of shortlisted applicants and select the winner. The judging panel will make up 100% of the votes. The chief judge will make the final decision in the event of a tie.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Description of your initiative
- Success of your initiative
- Future plans

## **6. Prize**

The winners of the Nature Research Awards for Inspiring Women in Science, Science Outreach category e will receive:

- A prize of US\$40,000
- An invitation to the award ceremony in London, with accommodation and travel expenses paid by the organiser. In the event that it is not possible or advisable to hold such a ceremony, an alternative presentation or acknowledgement will be arranged.
- Coverage on nature.com
- An invitation to present their work or initiative to the scientists at The Estée Lauder Companies
- Mentoring through The Estée Lauder Companies

The shortlisted applicants will:

- Be profiled on the Nature Research Award website
- Have access to an exclusive mentoring and networking community site

## **7. Key dates**

Applications: applications are invited between 12th April 2021 and 23:59 BST on 20th June 2021.

Shortlist: the shortlist will be announced in September 2021.

Winner: the winner will be invited to the award ceremony, which will take place in London in October 2021, if circumstances permit.

## **8. Contact**

Please contact us at [awards@nature.com](mailto:awards@nature.com) if you require any further information.