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Learn about the Science Outreach category

Learn about the Scientific Achievement category

About the Nature Awards for Inspiring Women in Science

The scope of the awards reflects two award categories, that describe the work they recognise - Science Outreach and Scientific Achievement. The aim of the awards, in partnership with The Estée Lauder Companies, is to celebrate and support the achievements of women in science, and of all those who work to encourage girls and young women to engage with STEM subjects and who work to support women to stay in STEM careers around the world. STEM includes natural sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine.

Key dates

27th January 2022	Application window opens
6th May 2022	Application window closes
September 2022	Shortlist announced
October 2022	Winner announced

Science Outreach Category

The Nature 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.

Eligibility criteria

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. We also welcome applications that include an interdisciplinary component.

Evaluation 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

Prizes

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

- A prize of US\$50,000
- 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 virtual 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

Scientific Achievement Category

The Nature Awards for Inspiring Women in Science - Scientific Achievement Category, recognizes early-career women researchers. The successful applicant will have made an exceptional demonstrable contribution to scientific discovery, and may have faced significant challenges, personal or professional. The applicant will also exhibit the potential for developing and leading an independent research group. We are also keen that applicants have made efforts to inspire the next

generation of scientists through outreach or support the retention of women in science careers.

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must self-identify as women. We use an inclusive definition of 'woman' and 'women'. We welcome trans women, genderqueer and non-binary people.
- Applicants must hold a PhD degree or a medical degree, or other type of doctorate by dissertation. A PhD or doctorate by dissertation is a globally recognized postgraduate academic degree awarded by a university or higher education institution to a person who has submitted a thesis or dissertation, based on extensive and original research in their chosen field.
- Applicants must be within 10 years of completing their PhD degree or medical degree, or other type of doctorate by dissertation:
- Completion of their PhD (or medical degree) is defined as the date the PhD (or medical degree) or doctorate by dissertation was approved by the institutional panel following submission of their dissertation and/or oral examination. It is not the date of their graduation.
- The abovementioned 10 years will be extended by any maternity leave(s) or other relevant leaves of absence. Thus, the 10 years do not need to be continuous. Details of these absences will need to be specified during the application process.
- If applicants hold both a PhD and a medical degree, the graduation date of the most recently awarded will be used.
- Applicants must hold a non-tenured position. This includes those who have non-permanent postdoctoral and/or non-permanent tenure-track positions (or equivalents such as proleptic lecturer positions). Those in a tenured position (or equivalents, such as permanent lecturer position) are not eligible to apply.
- We accept applications from those working in natural sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine. We also welcome applications that

include an interdisciplinary component.

Evaluation 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 the 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 scored with the focus on scientific achievements, but taking into account science outreach activities.

Prizes

The winner of the Nature Awards for Inspiring Women in Science, Scientific Achievement category will receive:

- A prize of US\$50,000
- An invitation to the award ceremony in London, with travel and accommodation expenses paid by the Promoter. In the event that it is not possible or advisable to hold such a ceremony, an alternative virtual 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
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This information is subject to change due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and any resulting restrictions.

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