

2021 NSW PREMIER'S PRIZES FOR SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

GUIDELINES

The NSW Premier's Prizes for Science & Engineering recognise excellence in science and engineering, and reward leading researchers and educators for cutting-edge work that has generated economic, environmental, health, social or technological benefits for NSW. The Prizes aim to raise community awareness and appreciation of the important contribution scientists, engineers and educators make, and encourage careers in STEM fields.

Categories

The top award is the NSW Premier's Prize for Scientist of the Year, presented to an outstanding individual who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of science and/or engineering which has benefited or has the potential to benefit the people of New South Wales. The 2021 Scientist of the Year will receive a trophy and \$60,000 in prize money.

A trophy and \$5,000 in prize money will be awarded to the winner in the following nine categories:

- 1. Excellence in Mathematics, Earth Sciences, Chemistry or Physics**
Awarded to a researcher who has demonstrated an outstanding contribution and impact in one of these fields, and whose research has made a significant contribution to addressing a real-world challenge.
- 2. Excellence in Biological Sciences (Ecological, environmental, agricultural and organismal)**
Awarded to a researcher in the biological sciences – in relation to ecological and environmental science, and aspects of the behaviour, physiology, evolution, form and function of plants and animals – who has demonstrated an outstanding role and impact in one of these fields, and whose research has made a significant contribution to addressing a real-world challenge.
- 3. Excellence in Medical Biological Sciences (Cell and molecular, medical, veterinary and genetics)**
Awarded to a researcher in the medical biological sciences – in relation to human and animal health, biotechnology, and basic cellular and molecular understanding of biological processes – who has demonstrated an outstanding role and impact in one of these fields, and whose research has made a significant contribution to addressing a real-world challenge.
- 4. Excellence in Engineering or Information and Communications Technology**
Awarded to a researcher who has demonstrated exceptional impact in their field of engineering or ICT and big data analytics, and who has made a significant contribution to the community or state through their research or professional projects.
- 5. NSW Early Career Researcher of the Year (Biological Sciences)**
Awarded to an individual who is 35 years or younger (at the closing date of nominations) or who has been awarded their PhD in the last five years, who is conducting outstanding and novel research in the biological sciences, ranging from ecology to molecular and medical science.
- 6. NSW Early Career Researcher of the Year (Physical Sciences)**
Awarded to an individual who is 35 years or younger (at the closing date of nominations), or who has been awarded their PhD in the last five years, who is conducting outstanding and novel research in the physical sciences, including mathematics and engineering.

7. Leadership in Innovation in NSW

Awarded to an individual demonstrating excellence in leadership in the application of novel ideas and techniques to address challenges, solve problems and generate new knowledge for the benefit of New South Wales.

8. Innovation in NSW Public Sector Science and Engineering

Awarded to an individual from a NSW public sector agency who has contributed to innovative research or to finding solutions to challenges facing New South Wales, especially in transport and logistics, water, resources and energy, agriculture and other priority areas.

9. Innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) Teaching in NSW

Awarded to a primary or secondary school teacher who has motivated and inspired students to become involved in student-centred learning, and whose work impacts on the science, technology, engineering or mathematics participation and performance of students in their school.

Please be aware that the categories are not exclusive and each nomination should be submitted under the category which correlates best with the nominee's field of expertise. The selection committee may at its discretion allocate the nomination to a more suitable category.

Prizes in categories 1-8 will be presented to individuals based on the excellence and impact of research which has been primarily conducted in the last five years. The nomination should clearly explain how the researcher's work has benefited New South Wales or the wider community, or how it has addressed a significant economic, environmental, health or technological challenge.

Nominees in category 9 must demonstrate an outstanding ability in leadership and innovative thinking in their contribution towards STEM learning in NSW primary and secondary schools.

Important Dates

Monday 17 May 2021	Nominations open at 9am AEST
Monday 21 June 2021	Nominations close at 5pm AEST
Wednesday 27 October 2021	Award ceremony

Eligibility

The 2021 NSW Premier's Prizes for Science & Engineering can only be awarded to individuals. Where the research has been a collaborative effort between two or more persons, you are encouraged to submit separate nominations outlining individual involvement in the research.

Eligibility for the 2021 NSW Premier's Prizes for Science & Engineering is limited to Australian citizens or permanent residents who have resided in NSW for at least five years up to and including the nomination deadline and who have performed the majority of the work being acclaimed while a resident and working in NSW.

Primarily work undertaken in the five years up to and including the nomination deadline will be considered for this year's Prizes.

In addition to the above conditions, eligibility for category 9 for the *Innovation in STEM Education in NSW* award is limited to applicants who have been teaching at primary and/or secondary school level in NSW for a period of at least two years up to and including the nomination deadline. The nominee must be teaching in a NSW primary and/or secondary school at the time of nomination.

Previous unsuccessful applicants are strongly encouraged to reapply. Past recipients of any of the category awards will not be considered eligible for a Prize this year.

Nominations

Each **nominator** must include:

1. A *Curriculum Vitae* of the Nominee. This should be **no more than five pages in length**, and include:
 - Full career details, including current and former appointments
 - A publication record listing important, impactful research, including the top five publications with citation metrics, h-index (*required for categories 1-8 only*)
 - A record of grants awarded
 - Contact details for three referees
2. A completed nomination form, including a 250-word written statement for categories 1-8 explaining the the significance, impact and quality (include indicators) of the nominee's research, and explaining specifically how their achievements in science and engineering have translated into beneficial outcomes for the wider community of NSW; or, for category 9, a 250-word written statement explain how this teacher has contributed to innovative science or mathematics teaching methods, and how this has impacted on inspiring the students in the school.
3. If self-nominating, three strong written references supporting the nomination
4. A signed Declaration of Consent, to be completed by the Nominee

The **nominee/nominator** may also be asked by the judging panel to provide:

1. Proof of Australian citizenship or permanent residency (e.g. birth certificate, citizenship certificate, visa). Certified copies are allowed on the proviso that they are clearly legible and copies of identification pages of passports accompany any visas.
2. A signed Statutory Declaration asserting that the majority of research being acclaimed was performed in NSW and that the nominee has resided in NSW for at least five years, up to and including 21 June 2021 (for categories 1-8).

Closing date

Nominations for the 2021 NSW Premier's Prizes for Science & Engineering must be submitted **by 5.00pm AEST on Monday 21 June 2021**. Late applications will not be considered.

Send one electronic copy of the nomination form with all relevant attachments to:

premiers.prizes@chiefscientist.nsw.gov.au

Selection Process

The Selection Committee is comprised of prominent members of the Australian science, technology and education sectors.

The Committee's recommendations will be submitted to the Premier for endorsement. The recommendations of the selection panel are final and the NSW Government reserves the right not to present an award in any year. Nominations are only relevant for categories 1-9.

There is no need to nominate for Scientist of the Year as the Selection Committee manages this by another process.

It is anticipated that the successful nominees will be notified by late August 2021.

The winners will be announced at the 2021 Premier's Prizes for Science & Engineering ceremony. Recipients must be present to accept their award or alternatively, nominate a representative to attend the ceremony to accept the award on their behalf.

In the event social-distancing restrictions prevent the holding of the Premier's Prizes ceremony, alternative arrangements will be announced ahead of time.

Please note: the Selection Committee reserves the right to identify researchers who have not been put forward through the nomination process. All nominees may also be put forward for nomination to other major awards, such as the Prime Minister's Prizes for Science.

Privacy Statement

The Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer is committed to responsible data management.

Personal information that the nominator and nominee provide will be used by the Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer and the Selection Committee to select prize winners and for publicity purposes as part of the 2021 NSW Premier's Prizes for Science & Engineering.

The nominators' and nominees' personal information will also be disclosed to members of the Selection Committee and the content of the nomination that is submitted to the Department may be placed on NSW Government websites.

For more information on our privacy policies, including rights to access and/or correct personal information, please visit the Department website at www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/privacy/

More information

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