natureresearch
AWARDS

Guidelines for applicants

Introduction

Science is critical in solving global challenges. In 2020 we invite applications from early career researchers (please see criteria below) working in one or more of these areas:

- **Food security, water security and/or energy security** – ensuring a long term, sustainable supply of either food, water or energy.
- **Healthcare interventions** – the assessment, improvement or promotion of human health.
- **Environmental protection** – protection of the natural environment on land and water including the repair of damage.
- **Climate change** – slowing climate change and adapting to what's unavoidable.
- **Sustainable cities** – building green, liveable cities that last.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must:

- Be employed by a university, research institute or any other not-for-profit organisation.
- Hold a PhD or clinical doctorate, awarded not earlier than 1st January 2005.
- Lead an independent research group established within the past 5 years as of 1st January 2020.
- Demonstrate the application, or potential application, of their research to make a positive impact on one or more global challenges above.
- Dates may be adjusted in the case of maternity leave(s) or other leave(s) of absence taken before the application deadline to adjust for the duration of the leave taken.
- The reference date for calculation of the eligibility period should be the date of commencement of the first independent research project led by the team leader named

in the application. In practice everyone who commenced such a position after 31st December 2014 is eligible. This period will be extended in the case of maternity leave(s) or other leave(s) of absences taken after the 1st January 2005 and before the application deadline with the duration of the leave taken.

Evaluation process and criteria

Applications will be assessed by our expert judging panel consisting of staff from Nature Research and independent experts. Panel members will review applications to create a shortlist. The full panel will then meet to discuss the merits of shortlisted applicants and select the winner and two runners up.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Scientific achievements.
- Research programme and its potential for scientific impact.
- Research programme and its potential for impact on the global challenges.

Applications from developing and emerging STEM nations are highly encouraged so location will be taken into account during the evaluation process.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted through the online application form. Entries must be complete to be eligible and all fields are required unless indicated otherwise.

Applicant details
- First Name
- Last Name
- Job title
- Organization/affiliation — if you have multiple affiliations, please list the organization where you have established your independent research group
- Country — if you have multiple affiliations, please list the country where you have established your independent research group
- Email address
- Phone number (including country code)
- Postal Address
- Short promotional biography (up to 200 words)

Eligibility

- Declaration — self declaration that you meet the eligibility criteria for the Nature Research Awards for Driving Global Impact 2020 as laid out in the award terms and conditions.
- Date of establishment of your independent research group, based on the commencement of your first project — this is the reference date used for the calculation of the eligibility period.
- Eligible leaves of absence (optional) — the start and end dates of eligible maternity leaves or other leaves of absence taken after the date you were awarded your PhD.
- Select one or more of the global challenges that your research will address:
- Food security, water security and/or energy security – ensuring a long term, sustainable supply of either food, water or energy
- Healthcare interventions – the assessment, improvement or promotion of human health
- Environmental protection – protection of the natural environment on land and water including the repair of damage
- Climate change – slowing climate change and adapting to what's unavoidable
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Scientific achievements
- All members of the judging panel have a scientific background but may not be familiar with your area of specialisation. Please bear this in mind and address your answers to a general science-literate audience.
- Provide a summary of your scientific achievements to date. Maximum 250 words.
- Provide details of up to five of your most important publications with a brief explanation for each as to why it has been selected. Maximum 150 words for each article title, and 250 words for each explanation.
- Provide details of up to three of your most important scientific achievements with a brief explanation for each as to why it has been selected — achievements may include conference presentations, collaborative projects, grants, or awards related to your work. Please do not include publications. Maximum 150 words for each achievement title and 250 words for each explanation.

Research programme and its potential for scientific impact
- Explain the goals of your current research programme. Maximum 250 words.
- Outline the breakthrough nature of your team's research and how this will advance your field— detail how the research will advance any other fields, where relevant. Maximum 250 words.
- Provide an overview of the research programme and timelines for the project — include details of the research programme and methodologies to be undertaken to address the research objectives. Maximum 250 words.

Research programme and its potential for impact on the global challenges
- When outlining potential impact, applicants should include only what can reasonably be expected for their research.

- Explain the impact of your research programme on the global challenge(s) you have selected. Quantify any demonstrated outcomes and/or expected potential future impact. Maximum 400 words.
- List the beneficiaries of the research and explain the nature of the impact on the beneficiaries — the beneficiaries may include, for example, patients, clinical staff, policymakers, and groups of the general public. Maximum 250 words.
- Explain and quantify the reach and significance of the impact, alongside expected timelines — as an example, this may include numbers of patients and the expected level of impact on them. Maximum 250 words.
- Explain the expected pathway to impact of your team's research. Include relevant audiences and channels of communication. Maximum 250 words.

Terms and conditions for applicants

Applicants must read and agree to the [terms and conditions](#) of the award programme.

Key dates

Applications are invited between 20th January 2020 and 11.59 PM GMT on 27th March 2020.

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to one winner and two runners up.

- The winner will receive a grant of USD 30,000, coverage on nature.com and on the Award's website, and an expenses paid invitation to attend the prize presentation ceremony at the 2020 Tencent WE Summit, to be held in Beijing in November 2020.

- The two runners up will each receive a grant of USD 10,000 and coverage on nature.com and on the Award's website.

Shortlisted applicants will also be announced and profiled on the Award's website.

Contact

Please contact us at impactawards@nature.com if you require any further information.