

The Royal Society Athena Prize 2024

Eligibility criteria and notes for nominators

The Athena Prize 2024

The Royal Society Athena Prize (‘the Athena Prize’) is awarded biennially (in even years) and recognises teams “working in UK academic and research communities, who have contributed most to the advancement of diversity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) within their communities.”

The Athena Prize aims to:

- Recognise the efforts of teams who have significantly contributed to good practice and the advancement of diversity in STEM
- Recognise projects or initiatives that benefit the wider STEM community
- Inspire others to provide leadership and innovation in diversity issues.

The Athena Prize will be awarded biennially unless, in the view of the Athena Prize judging panel, no suitable candidate team has been nominated. In this situation, the Athena Prize will not be awarded in 2024 and nominations will re-open in November 2024.

The Athena Prize award is a medal and a gift of £5,000. The winning team will be invited to take part in a video about their work and to discuss other opportunities to share their project or initiative with public audiences.

The Athena Prize judging panel will consider the difference that an initiative or project has made to engendering and supporting a culture of diversity and inclusion within STEM institutions and organisations. The judging panel will consider the following:

- Progress and impact – what is different as a result of the project or initiative?
- Sustainability – how will the project or initiative be maintained?
- Innovation and inspiration – what is new?
- Transferability – how could the project or initiative be transferred to other STEM institutions or organisations?

Eligibility

- The Athena Prize 2024 will be awarded to a team for significantly contributing to good practice and the advancement of diversity and inclusion in STEM.

- To be eligible to apply, teams must be working in an academic or research community in the UK.
- Teams must be clearly defined and the names of all team members must be specified on the application. There is no limit on the size of the team that can apply.
- For the purposes of the Athena Prize, “team” includes University STEM departments and faculties. It also includes teams who have founded or are leading a network, but does not include all members of a particular network.
- Previous individual or team Athena Prize winners may **not** reapply. Individuals who had formerly been part of a winning Athena Prize team may be included if they are now part of a different team.
- Previously unsuccessful Athena Prize applicants may apply again.
- For the purposes of this Prize, ‘diversity’ is used in its broadest sense and includes (but is not limited to) projects or initiatives relating to gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and LGBTQ+, neurodiversity, social background and religion/belief. Projects or initiatives may cover one or more of these areas.
- This prize is by self-nomination from within the team. One team member may propose the project or initiative via the Society’s [Medals and Awards nomination dashboard](#) and should include the names and contact details of every team member and two referees.
- Members of the [Council of the Royal Society](#), and members of the judging panel at the time the award is decided, will not be eligible for the Athena Prize.

Instructions for nominators

Nominations should include:

- Full name and contact details of the nominator who will complete details of the project or initiative. (sections listed below) The nominator should be a candidate team member directly involved in the project or initiative.
- Full name and address of the candidate team. The full name of each member making up the nominated team should be given.

- Supporting statement by the nominator to explain the suitability of the candidate team for the Athena Prize.
- The names of two referees from whom further supporting statements could be sought.
- Nominators must not be members of the [Council of the Royal Society](#), or the Athena Prize judging panel.

References – guidance

- Referees must not be members of the [Council of the Royal Society](#), the Royal Society's [Diversity Committee](#) or the Royal Society Athena Prize judging panel.
- **At least one referee should be someone involved with or impacted by the team's initiative or project.**
- The Society will ask for statements from referees within two weeks of the closing date.

Nomination form

The nomination form is comprised of seven sections. The sections and text fields are listed below. It is recommended to draft responses before copying them into the nomination form, although the nomination form can be saved at any point and revisited.

Section 1 – Nomination details - nominator

This section is for the nominator to complete

Contact details for the candidate team member who will complete the required information should be provided in this section. Please provide a statement of support outlining the suitability of the team for this prize (500 words maximum).

Section 2 – Nomination details

This section is for the nominator to complete

- 3.1) Please provide a summary of your initiative or project (500 words maximum).

This should include:

- The aims of the initiative or project (what you hoped to achieve at the end)
- How you achieved your aim
- Your team's role in the activity
- Timescales
- How you measured success
- Any support or funding received

- 3.2) Please outline how your initiative or project has engendered and supported positive change (500 words maximum).
Please include any supporting evidence to demonstrate impact (for example, relevant statistics, supporting statements from individuals who have benefitted from the project, press coverage etc.)
- 3.3) Please outline any features of your project that are new or innovative in your field of activity.
- 3.4) Please outline how your initiative or project will be sustained (500 words maximum).
Your answer may include details of how the changes engendered by your initiative or project will be/are being embedded and maintained in your organisation or the wider STEM community in the short- and long-term.
- 3.5) Please outline any plans to replicate or extend your initiative or project, or evidence of successful replication or extension (500 words maximum).
Your answer may include details and evidence of how your project or initiative has been shared, adopted or adapted by others in your organisation or the wider STEM community, or details of any plans to do this in the future.

Section 3 – Declaration

This section is for the nominator to complete

Section 4 – Nominated Referee 1

This section is for the nominator to complete

Section 5 – Nominated Referee 2

This section is for the nominator to complete

Section 6 – Marketing nominator

This section is for the nominator to complete

How did you find out about the award?

Section 7 – Marketing nominee

This section is for the nominator to complete

How did you find out about the award?

Contact

Enquiries about the Athena Prize should be sent to: diversity@royalsociety.org.