



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation**



2021 Applicant Information Pack

Research

Scientist of the Year

Woodside Early Career Scientist of the Year

ExxonMobil Student Scientist of the Year

Applications close: 10:00am (AWST) on Monday 17 May 2021

Applications must be submitted online at <https://psa.grantplatform.com> by 10:00am (AWST) on Monday 17 May 2021.

Late applications or changes to applications will not be accepted after the advertised closing date and time.

Introduction

The Premier's Science Awards (Science Awards) recognise and celebrate the achievements of the Western Australian science community. Award recipients exemplify the outstanding scientific research, science engagement and study efforts taking place in the State.

For the purposes of the Premier's Science Awards, the term 'science' encompasses applied and pure science and includes engineering, new technologies and mathematics. Applications for any category can include achievement in any of these disciplines.

The 2021 Premier's Science Awards program is a proud initiative of the Western Australian government. It is sponsored by Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell and Woodside, and supported by Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, The University of Western Australia, CSIRO, WA Museum and Telethon Kids Institute.

In 2021, there are five competitively-assessed categories across scientific research, science engagement and study. This document outlines the requirements for applicants in the **research categories** of:

Scientist of the Year: \$50,000	Awarded to a world class scientist who, over the past 10 years , has demonstrated excellence in a field of science, scientific research or technological advancement.
Woodside Early Career Scientist of the Year: \$10,000	Awarded to an outstanding scientist who has completed their highest degree in the past five years and demonstrated excellence in a field of science, scientific research or technological advancement.
ExxonMobil Student Scientist of the Year: \$10,000	Awarded to an outstanding postgraduate student who has demonstrated a commitment to science at an early stage and shows great promise in reaching the highest levels of excellence.

Application Process

The selection of the award recipients is a competitive process given the high calibre of all candidates. The comparability of the applications is therefore critical to the selection of winners. The applicant must meet the required format and the information requirements that have been established for their application to be considered by the judging panel. An application not complying with the requirements will be considered ineligible.

Applications must be submitted online by visiting the link <https://psa.grantplatform.com>. **The applicant must ensure that the: online application is submitted; correct forms are completed (see below); required format is followed; and word limits are observed.**

The documentation required for all research categories is:

1. *completed online application – Research*
2. *Endorsement Form – Research*
3. Curriculum Vitae of a maximum of four (4) pages, including details of relevant publications, grants and industry collaboration
4. Certified copy of testamur (for Woodside Early Career Scientist of the Year category only). More information on how to have documents certified can be found [here](#).

For further information contact Kylie Weston, Project Officer, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation by email at science@jtsi.wa.gov.au or by phone on 08 6277 3017.

Step 1: Eligibility

The applicant must complete the online application process for the one of the Research categories and complete the applicant declaration confirming their eligibility to apply.

Eligibility to apply to any of the Science Awards categories is limited to Australian citizens and those who hold permanent resident status in Australia. If an applicant is chosen as a finalist they will be required to provide evidence of citizenship or residency.

Previous applicants are eligible to apply, however applications should not be a resubmission from a previous year. Applicants can only apply for the same category for up to two consecutive years, and are required to take a one year gap before re-applying thereafter. Please ensure your application is current and reflects any changes to guidelines or evaluation criteria.

Past winners of any Science Award category are automatically ineligible for that category or its 2021 equivalent, but may apply for other categories if eligible.

Specific eligibility criteria

The applicant must also meet the specific eligibility criteria for the category to which an application is submitted.

Scientist of the Year

The applicant must:

- demonstrate excellence in a field of science, scientific research or technological advancement over the past 10 years and
- be currently residing in and conducting research in Western Australia and have been residing in and conducting research in Western Australia for at least five years.

Woodside Early Career Scientist of the Year

The applicant must:

- be currently conducting research in Western Australia and have conducted post graduate research in Western Australia for at least 24 months in total and
- have completed their highest degree in the past five years (unless other circumstances have been cited)*.

*To be eligible in 2021, the date of the applicant's testamur must be on or later than 17 May 2016. If an applicant's testamur is dated before 17 May 2016, the applicant must outline the circumstances that explain why their achievements were realised over a longer period of time. Please note that time off for family responsibilities or time spent in industry in a non-research role are considered acceptable circumstances.

ExxonMobil Student Scientist of the Year

The applicant must be a current student** undertaking postgraduate studies in science, technology, engineering or mathematics at a Western Australian university.

**To be regarded as a current student, an applicant must not have submitted their thesis for examination before the application closing date (17 May 2021).

All eligibility time periods are as at the application closing date 17 May 2021.

Step 2: Application endorsement

The applicant should obtain endorsement for their application through the *Endorsement Form – Research*.

The endorser confirms that the application is true and correct and that it is supported by the applicant's management. The endorser should have knowledge of the applicant's achievements and be able to provide expert opinions regarding the applicant's work in scientific research. An individual can endorse multiple applicants for the same category. The following table provides guidance on who can endorse an application:

Category	Endorser
Scientist of the Year and Woodside Early Career Scientist of the Year	Supervisor or manager within the applicant's organisation (e.g. CEO, Head of Research Group)
ExxonMobil Student Scientist of the Year	The supervisor or manager directly supervising the student's work

Step 3: Evaluation criteria

The applicant is required to complete the Evaluation Criteria *within the online form*, providing a maximum 600 word response for each of the four evaluation criteria. Claims and impact should be justified and supported by clearly verifiable quantitative and qualitative evidence. Unsubstantiated or unverifiable statements will not be considered during the selection process. All sections of the form should be completed in detail.

Eligible applications will be evaluated and ranked against the **equally-weighted criteria** of:

1. *excellence*
2. *impact*
3. *leadership and collaboration*
4. *ambassadorship*.

The applicant should ensure that they:

- provide responses to the criteria that are coherent, well-structured and written in plain English
- prepare an application that is current and reflects any changes to guidelines or evaluation criteria
- avoid repetition and asks someone to proof the application before submitting
- avoid jargon and defines necessary technical language and abbreviations
- support claims with quantitative and qualitative evidence/data
- make it clear what is attributable to their effort versus what is attributable to their team or colleagues
- avoid including webpages and links to audio files as judges may only review hard copies of your application documents
- allow adequate time to prepare the application, as late submissions will not be accepted.

Step 4: Submission documentation

The applicant should collate the relevant required documentation and submit their application to <https://psa.grantplatform.com> by 10:00am (AWST) on 17 May 2021.

Any materials other than those requested will not be provided to the judging panel and will therefore not be considered in the evaluation process.

The format for the required documentation for all research categories is:

1. Completed, and electronically submitted, online application for the one of the *Research* categories.
2. Completed and signed *Endorsement Form – Research* (PDF scan)A Curriculum Vitae (CV) of a **maximum of four (4) pages**, including details of publications, grants and industry collaboration relevant to the application, in single spaced Arial 11pt font (Word/ PDF).

In addition to the above documentation an applicant in the Woodside Early Career Scientist of the Year should also attach:

3. A certified copy of their testamur as evidence that they have completed their highest degree on or later than 17 May 2016 (unless other circumstances have been cited). More information on how to certify documents can be found on the [Justice](#) website.

Naming Conventions

All documents must be clearly titled with the applicant's name, followed by the document name e.g.:

JaneSmithApplication.doc
JaneSmithEndorsement.pdf
JaneSmithCV.doc

Separate forms apply for applicants in the Engagement Initiative and Aboriginal STEM Student award categories. Please ensure you use the correct forms for your chosen award category when applying.

General Information

The applicant should read the following information before completing their application.

Decision making process

Applications will be evaluated by a Premier's Science Awards judging panel. Evaluation of applications will be based on the application's alignment with the evaluation criteria.

The judging panel reserve the right to request additional evidence to support claims against the evaluation criteria to assist it in making its decision. The judging panel may also seek advice from individuals with expertise in the area under consideration, to assist with evaluation.

The judges' recommendations are final. The deliberations of the judging panel and all related information and material will be kept strictly confidential, subject to the requirements of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*. The judging panel reserves the right not to recommend a winner or finalist for a particular category.

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by an electronic letter.

Freedom of information

Applicants are informed that the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*, which provides a general right of access to records held by Western Australian State and Local Government agencies.

Further information on the operation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act can be obtained from the [Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation](#) or by contacting the department's FOI Coordinator at foi@jtsi.wa.gov.au.

Use of application materials

All materials provided are accepted on the understanding that the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation will only use or disclose such material:

- in the process of determining the recommended winner and finalists for a category
- for the purposes of informing the public about the award outcomes
- in any publicity concerning the Science Awards
- in any publicity concerning the promotion of science
- in other instances where information collected may be disclosed without consent, where authorised or required by law.

All award-related information, material provided, and material created by the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation through the Science Awards program, such as media statements, interviews, videos and photographs remain the property of the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

Tax information

In some instances, the Australian Taxation Office views prize money as assessable income. An award recipient is advised to discuss any potential taxation implications with their financial advisor, or the Australian Taxation Office (13 28 61).

Obligations of award recipients

Award recipients of the Premier's Science Awards are expected to participate in public engagements promoting science to the wider community.

The department will actively coordinate the participation of the 2021 award recipients by facilitating links with existing science engagement opportunities and scheduled National Science Week activities. The department may also invite finalists to participate in science engagement opportunities.

The department encourages award winners to promote their success through newsletters, websites, tweets and by other means. The department will provide information to support award winners in these promotions. Recipients are required to acknowledge sponsors when mentioning the award. Contact the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation to discuss the use of logos and other material.

In the event award recipients are contacted by the media, advice should be sought from the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation prior to interviews. Information provided to the media must appropriately acknowledge your category sponsors and the date the award was granted. The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation strongly encourages all award recipients to seek advice prior to speaking to members of the media.

The department will contact the 2021 award recipients to discuss the proposed activities following the awards ceremony.

END OF INFORMATION PACK