



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



2023 Applicant Information Pack

Research

Scientist of the Year

Mid-Career Scientist of the Year

Early Career Scientist of the Year

Student Scientist of the Year

Applications close: 10:00AM (AWST) on Thursday 27 April 2023

Applications must be submitted online and endorsed at <https://psa.grantplatform.com> by 10:00AM (AWST) on Thursday 27 April 2023.

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

Introduction

The Premier's Science Awards (the 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 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 Awards are a proud initiative of the Western Australian Government. The 2023 Premier's Science Awards program is sponsored by:

- Gold Sponsors: Shell and Woodside
- Silver Sponsor: DUG
- Bronze Sponsors: CSIRO and Pawsey Supercomputing Centre
- University Sponsors: Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, The University of Notre Dame Australia, The University of Western Australia
- Sector Sponsor: Telethon Kids Institute
- Community Partners: Scitech, The Western Australian Museum
- Media Partner: The West Australian

In 2023, there are six 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 has demonstrated excellence in a field of science, scientific research or technological advancement and has been active in the field particularly in the past ten years .
Mid-Career Scientist of the Year: \$10,000	Awarded to an outstanding scientist who has completed their highest degree between five and fifteen years ago , and has demonstrated excellence in a field of science, scientific research or technological advancement.
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.
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 and endorsed online by visiting the link <https://psa.grantplatform.com>. **The applicant must ensure that the: online application and endorsement is submitted before the closing date and time, appropriate documentation is included (see below), the required format is followed and word limits are observed.**

An application not complying with any of the requirements established below will be considered ineligible.

The documentation required for all research categories is:

1. Completed online application – Research
2. Completed online Endorsement – Research
3. Curriculum Vitae of a maximum of four (4) pages, including details of relevant publications, grants and industry collaboration
4. Copy of original testamur (for Mid-Career Scientist of the Year and Early Career Scientist of the Year categories only).

For further information contact Tessa Finlen, Project Officer, STEM Strategy and Coordination, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation by email at science@jtsi.wa.gov.au or by phone on 08 6277 2870.

Step 1: Eligibility

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

Eligibility to apply to any of the 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 Awards category are automatically ineligible for that category or its 2023 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 and have been active in the field particularly in 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.

Mid-Career Scientist of the Year

The applicant must:

- be currently conducting research in Western Australia and have conducted postgraduate research in Western Australia for at least three years in total;
- have completed their highest degree between **five and fifteen years ago** (unless other circumstances have been cited)*; and
- have not won the Early Career Scientist of the Year category of the Awards in the last five years

*To be eligible in 2023, the date of the applicant's testamur must be on or between 27 April 2008 and 27 April 2018. If an applicant's testamur is dated before 20 April 2008, the applicant must outline the circumstances that explain why their achievements were realised over a longer period of time; family responsibilities or industry employment in a non-research role are considered acceptable circumstances (see Relative Opportunity Criteria below for further information).

Early Career Scientist of the Year

The applicant must:

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

**To be eligible in 2023, the date of the applicant's testamur must be on or later than 27 April 2018. If an applicant's testamur is dated before 27 April 2018, the applicant must outline the circumstances that explain why their achievements were realised over a longer period of time; family responsibilities or industry employment in a non-research role are considered acceptable circumstances (see Relative Opportunity Criteria below for further information).

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 have not submitted their thesis for examination before the application closing date (27 April 2023).

All eligibility time periods are as at the application closing date 27 April 2023.

Relative Opportunity Criteria

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (the Department) is committed to ensuring that all eligible researchers and students, from universities and the wider research sector including industry, have a fair and equitable opportunity to compete in the Premier's Science Awards (the Awards). The Department recognises that diverse circumstances can affect research opportunity and aims to facilitate equitable access to the Awards for eligible researchers and students. The Awards application documents include extended eligibility timeframes for researchers and students who have experienced significant career interruptions. Applicants can submit responses to the relative opportunity and performance evidence (ROPE) criterion which enables the judging panel to consider a researcher or student's activities, outputs and achievements in the context of opportunity and experience.

To be eligible for the Mid-Career Scientist of the Year and Early Career Scientist of the Year awards in 2023, the applicant's testamur must be dated as per the requirements outlined in the *Specific Eligibility Criteria* (see above), or have a conferral date together with allowable periods of career interruption that would be commensurate with being awarded their highest degree within the eligible period for that award.

For the Scientist of the Year and Student Scientist of the Year awards, the judging panel will consider the applicant's activities, outputs and achievements in the context of opportunity and experience.

The applicant must outline the circumstances that explain why their achievements were realised over a longer period of time. The list below details examples of career interruptions that would be considered.

- Disruption due to international relocation;
- Carer's responsibilities;
- Illness or disability;
- Maternity or parental leave;
- Unemployment;
- Part-time study or employment;
- Non-research employment not concurrent with research employment such as time spent in industry;
- Being the primary carer of a dependent child (inclusive of carer's responsibilities and any maternity or parental leave); or
- Other special circumstances similar to those listed above.

Step 2: Evaluation Criteria

The applicant is required to complete the Evaluation Criteria *within the online form*, providing a maximum 600 word response (or 450 word response for the Student Scientist of the Year Category) 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 succinct, 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 and obtain endorsement, as late or unendorsed applications will be deemed ineligible.

Step 3: Submission of Documentation and Declaration

The applicant should collate the relevant required documentation, submit their application and arrange to have it endorsed at <https://psa.grantplatform.com> by 10:00AM (AWST) on Thursday 27 April 2023.

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. 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).
3. Completed and electronically submitted Endorsement.

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

4. A copy of their original testamur as evidence that they have completed their highest degree within the eligible dates (see above table for dates; unless other circumstances have been cited).

Naming Conventions

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

JaneSmithApplication.doc
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.

Prior to the submission of the application, the applicant must complete a Declaration stating; that the information supplied is true, accurate and not misleading to the best of their knowledge; they are an Australian citizen or permanent resident, that they are not a past winner of the category which they are applying for; that they permit the use of any materials submitted for the purposes of the selection process and that it may be used for publicity purposes; and that appropriate endorsement will be obtained.

Step 4: Application Endorsement

The applicant should obtain endorsement for their application within the online form at <https://psa.grantplatform.com> by 10:00AM (AWST) on Thursday 27 April 2023.

Prior to the submission of the application, the applicant will be asked to provide the name and email address of a suitable endorser.

Once the application has been submitted, the endorser will receive an automated email asking them to log in to the online form and complete the endorsement of the application before the closing date and time, confirming that the application is true and correct, and 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 and the following table provides guidance on who can endorse an application:

Category	Endorser
Scientist of the Year, Mid-Career Scientist of the Year and Early Career Scientist of the Year	Supervisor or manager within the applicant's organisation (e.g. CEO, Head of Research Group); or their institution's research office
Student Scientist of the Year	The supervisor or manager directly supervising the student's work; or their institution's research office

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they allow sufficient time for the endorser to complete the online endorsement before the closing date and time.

The applicant will receive an email notification advising them once the application has been endorsed. If a notification has not been received, it is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with the endorser to ensure the endorsement has been completed before the closing date and time.

We encourage applicants to inform their research office prior to submitting an application.

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 email.

Freedom of Information

Applicants are informed that the Department 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 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 through the Awards program, such as media statements, interviews, videos and photographs remain the property of the Department.

Please note that upon submission of your application through the online platform, your institution's research office will automatically receive an email informing them of your name and the award category that you have applied for. No further information will be provided to them by the Department. This is separate to the endorsement process.

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, such as National Science Week activities.

The Department may facilitate links between 2023 award recipients and existing science engagement opportunities. The Department may also invite 2023 finalists to participate in science engagement opportunities.

The Department encourages award winners to promote their success through newsletters, websites, social media, and tweets and by other means. The Department will provide information to support award winners in these promotions. Please contact the Department 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 prior to interviews. Information provided to the media must appropriately acknowledge your category and the date the award was granted. The Department strongly encourages all award recipients to seek advice prior to speaking to members of the media.

The Department will contact the 2023 award recipients to discuss any proposed activities following the Awards Ceremony.

END OF INFORMATION PACK