

2019 ACT SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

NOMINATION GUIDELINES



NOMINATION CLOSING DATE:
5PM FRIDAY 21 JUNE 2019

CONTENTS

Overview	2
Objectives	2
Prize	2
Eligibility criteria	2
Nomination criteria	2
Submission of nominations	2
Nomination supporting documentation	3
Selection procedure	3
Obligations of award winner	4
Other information to nominees	4

**NOMINATION CLOSING DATE:
5PM FRIDAY 21 JUNE 2019**

OVERVIEW

The ACT Scientist of the Year Award recognises the achievements of an ‘up and coming’ scientist with significant potential to continue to achieve in their chosen field of research.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the award is to:

- celebrate excellence in scientific research and innovation in the ACT through recognition of an ‘ACT Scientist of the Year’;
- showcase the contribution that local scientists make to science and innovation, both nationally and worldwide;
- enhance the ACT’s reputation as a ‘centre of excellence in research and innovation’; and
- inspire young people to consider a career in science.

PRIZE

One scientist will be recognised as the ACT Scientist of the Year and receive a \$30,000 (ex GST) prize.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered for the ACT Scientist of the Year Award, nominees must meet the following Eligibility Criteria:

1. Nominees must be working in basic or applied research in all fields of science, technology, engineering or mathematics.
2. Nominees must hold a PhD or equivalent qualification and subject to paragraph 3, must be no more than 10 years post PhD or equivalent qualification.
3. If the 10 year period under paragraph 2 has passed, the selection committee may, but is not obliged to, take into account personal or extenuating circumstances that might provide grounds for eligibility (eg breaks taken for maternity/parental leave or significant breaks in research due to illness). In their nominations, nominees should explain any extenuating circumstances relevant to their nomination.
4. Nominees must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

5. Nominees must currently be conducting research in the ACT.
6. Only individuals are eligible nominees. Research teams are ineligible for nomination. If the individual nominee is a member of a research team, the nomination should clearly outline the individual’s achievements rather than the teams.
7. Nominees can enter themselves or be nominated by others. If the entrant is nominated by someone else it is important that the nominee is advised so that the nominee has the opportunity to provide input into the documentation supporting their nomination.
8. Nominees must meet the Eligibility Criteria as at the Nomination Closing Date.
9. Nominations should be submitted by the Nomination Closing Date. Nominations received after the Nomination Closing Date may not be accepted.
10. Past recipients of the ACT Scientist of the Year Award are not eligible nominees. Previous nominees for the award are eligible for renomination.

NOMINATION CRITERIA

The Nomination Criteria are as follows:

- What is the aim/purpose of your research/innovation and its standing within the global bank of knowledge?
- What are the direct or indirect benefits of your research/innovation to the ACT?
- How does your research/innovation contribute to the ACT’s reputation as a centre of knowledge?
- Explain how you engage with the scientific and general community and how you expect to have impact.
- How would you use the title ‘ACT Scientist of the Year’ to inspire young people to consider careers in science?

SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the ACT Scientist of the Year Award should be submitted by completing the ACT Scientist of the Year Award Online Nomination Form by the Nomination Closing Date: Friday 21 June 2019.

The ACT Scientist of the Year Online Nomination Form is available at act.gov.au/scientistofyear.

The following information is required to complete a nomination:

- the nominee’s personal details;
- the nominator’s details (if applicable);
- the nominee’s professional details;
- short project description (this may be used when announcing the recipient to the public) (max 300 characters);
- response to Nomination Criteria (max 3200 characters each); and
- attachment of supporting documentation as listed below.

If you encounter any difficulties in submitting your nomination, please contact the Secretariat by email at scientistofyear@act.gov.au or by phone on (02) 6205 3031.

Claims made in the nomination should be justified and supported with quantitative and qualitative evidence.

NOMINATION SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The following supporting documentation must be submitted with each nomination:

- a CV for the nominee, including a list of up to 20 recent publications relevant to the nomination (maximum 4 pages);
- Two written referee reports, completed on the ACT Scientist of the Year Award Referee Report template, outlining:
 - the potential impacts of the nominee’s research;
 - the nominee’s career potential, noting how they compare to others in their cohort, at a similar career-stage; and
 - the nominee’s ability to communicate and inspire.
- A short video of the nominee talking about their research/innovation:
 - the video must not exceed 1 minute;
 - the video is not expected to be of high production quality;

- the purpose of the video is to demonstrate the nominee’s ability to communicate and explain their field of research.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Nominations will be judged by an independent selection committee that will assess each nomination against the Eligibility Criteria and the Nomination Criteria set out in these Nomination Guidelines (Guidelines). The deliberations of the selection committee will remain confidential.

The Chair of the selection committee will be appointed by the Territory and will have voting rights. The Chair, in consultation with the Territory, will appoint the independent members of the selection committee. The selection committee will comprise up to four academic/research representatives, one Territory representative, and one additional representative who may represent the community, communications or industry sector.

The decision of the selection committee in the selection of the prize winner is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The selection committee reserves the right to not award a prize if no nominations strongly meet the criteria.

The comparability of nominations is critical to the selection of winners. All nominations should meet the required format. Nominations that do not comply with the Guidelines’ requirements or requirements of any supporting documentation may be considered ineligible. The selection committee will reach its decision solely on the material submitted in accordance with these Guidelines.

At the discretion of the Chair, more information can be sought from nominees or nominators. The selection committee reserves the right to seek additional referee reports without consulting the nominee or nominator.

It is expected that committee members will formally declare any conflict of interest at the commencement of the selection process.

All nomination information and material provided by nominees becomes the property of the Territory and will remain strictly confidential. All materials provided

in nominations will only be used or disclosed to the extent necessary by the Territory:

- for the purposes of assessing nominations and determining the successful recipient of the ACT Scientist of the Year Award;
- for the purposes of informing the public about the outcome of the ACT Scientist of the Year Award;
- in any publicity concerning the ACT Scientist of the Year Award;
- in any publicity concerning the promotion of science; and
- where required to do so by law.

All information and material provided or created by the Territory related to the ACT Scientist of the Year Award is and remains the property of the Territory.

The deliberations of the selection committee will remain confidential and final.

In considering and assessing nominations received for this award, the Territory reserves the right to:

- develop and consider additional sub-criteria for any, or all, of the Nomination Criteria;
- take into account information provided in response to a particular Nomination Criterion in the evaluation of other Nomination Criteria; and
- at its absolute discretion, give preference to any one or more of the Nomination Criteria.

OBLIGATIONS OF AWARD WINNER

The ACT Scientist of the Year will become a “science ambassador” for the Territory and is expected to:

- attend an announcement event during National Science Week; and
- work to communicate the benefits of careers in science to students and promote the ACT as a centre of knowledge and scientific research and innovation throughout the year.

The Secretariat will contact the prize winner prior to public announcement to coordinate the announcement and will actively work with the prize winner to schedule any ongoing activities.

Unsuccessful nominators will be advised in writing prior to the public announcement.

In addition, the prize winner is expected at the time of the closing date of application to remain in contact with the Secretariat for 12 months following the award ceremony, or advise the Secretariat of a change in their circumstances.

OTHER INFORMATION TO NOMINEES

PROVISION OF FALSE OR MISLEADING INFORMATION

If a nomination contains information that is false or misleading, it may be excluded from further consideration. The committee may seek verification of information before awarding the prize.

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Personal information provided in connection with the ACT Scientist of the Year Award will be used by the Territory and the selection committee solely in connection with assessing, determining and promoting the winner of the ACT Scientist of the Year Award. Personal information will be collected, stored, used and disclosed in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2014* (ACT) and the *Territory Records Act 2002* (ACT).

For further information regarding the collection of personal information, please refer to the *Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate Privacy Statement* which can be found at cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/legal/privacy

For further information regarding the collection of personal information through the ACT Scientist of the Year Award Online Nomination Form, please refer to:

- the *Access Canberra Information Collection Notice* which can be found at accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/2047/kw/information%20collection%20notice; and
- the *Access Canberra Privacy Policy* which can be found at act.gov.au/privacy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Territory is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (ACT), which provides a general right for the public to access records held by Territory agencies. Further information on freedom of information can be obtained from cmd.act.gov.au/functions/foi

TAXATION ADVICE

In some instances the Australian Taxation Office views prize money as assessable income. The prize recipient is advised to discuss any potential taxation implications with his/her financial advisor, or the Australian Taxation Office.

FEEDBACK

Any queries or complaints following award of the ACT Scientist of the Year Award should be addressed to the Secretariat.

SECRETARIAT CONTACT DETAILS

ACT Scientist of the Year Award Secretariat
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic
Development Directorate
ACT Government
Email scientistofyear@act.gov.au
Phone (02) 6205 3031 or 13 22 81
Web act.gov.au/scientistofyear



ACT
Government