



Guidelines for applicants

2019 BRAIN SCIENCES

UNLOCKING THE MYSTERIES OF THE MIND

Introduction

In 2019 the Nature Research Awards for Driving Global Impact will recognize early-career researchers revolutionizing our understanding of the brain, and whose work has made, or has the potential to make, a positive impact on society.

Applications are invited from early-career researchers making major contributions in brain sciences, including areas such as the relationship between brain and behaviour, technological breakthroughs, and novel approaches to the prevention and treatment of brain diseases.

The award will be made to a researcher who has established an independent research group within the past 5 years and whose work has made an exceptional contribution to scientific discovery within the broad spectrum of brain research. Researchers must be able to demonstrate the impact, or potential impact, of their research on society, and outline their plans to ensure that impact is realized. Impact on society is defined as an effect on the economy, society, public policy, or services, health, the environment or quality of life.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants should be a researcher, who has established their first independent research group within the past 5 years as of 1st November 2018, and whose research programme contributes to scientific discovery within the broad spectrum of brain research. Researchers should be able to demonstrate the application, or potential application, of their research to make a positive impact on society.

Applicants should have a research and/or clinical doctorate degree and have transitioned from a mentored, postdoctoral research position or equivalent, to independent, tenure-track, tenured, or equivalent positions in academic, medical or government organisations within the last 5 years as of 1st November 2018. Such researchers should have independent funding (private or public) to direct their own research team or programme and may employ researchers (e.g., PhD students or technicians) as team members. The reference date used for the calculation of the eligibility period should be the date of commencement of any independent, tenure-track or equivalent position. In practice, everyone who commenced such a position after 1st November 2013 is eligible. This period

will be extended in the case of maternity leaves or other leaves of absence taken after 1st November 2013 and before the application deadline to adjust for 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. The judging panel will make up 100% of the votes. The chief judge will make the final decision in the event of a tie.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Scientific achievements to date in the field of brain research.
- Research programme and its potential for scientific impact.
- Research programme and its potential for impact on society.
- Planned communications and outreach around the research programme to maximize impact on society.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted through the [online application form](#). All information should be prepared in advance as the form cannot be saved. Entries must be complete to be eligible and all fields are required unless indicated otherwise.

The Application

1. Applicant's details
 - Full 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)
2. Eligibility
 - Declaration — self declaration that you meet the eligibility criteria for the Nature Research Awards for Driving Global Impact: 2019 Brain Sciences as laid out in the terms and conditions.

- Date of establishment of your independent research group — this is the reference date used for the calculation of the eligibility period and must be the date of commencement of the first independent, tenure-track or equivalent position.
- Eligible leaves of absence (optional) — the start and end dates of eligible maternity leaves or other leaves of absence taken after the date you established your first independent research group.

3. Scientific achievements to date in the field of brain research

- Provide a summary of your scientific achievements to date in the field of brain science. 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 255 characters for each article title, and 510 characters (approx. 100 words) for each explanation.
- Provide details of up to three of your most important achievements and an 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 255 characters for each achievement and 510 characters (approx. 100 words) for each explanation.
- Please attach a CV providing your full publication record and details of conference presentations, collaborative projects, grants and sources of funding, or awards related to your work.

Documents must use a clear font such as Arial, no smaller than 11 pt, and margins of at least 2 cm on all sides. These documents should be uploaded as .DOC or .PDF files.

4. Research programme and its potential for scientific impact

- Describe the goals of your current research programme. Maximum 250 words.
- Outline the breakthrough nature of your research — detail how your research will advance brain sciences and 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.

5. Research programme and its potential for impact on society

Impact on society is defined as an effect on the economy, society, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life. When outlining potential impact, applicants should include only what is reasonable and expected for their research.

- Describe the impact of your research programme on society — include details of any demonstrated outcomes and/or expected potential future impact and clearly explain how your research contributes to the impact. Maximum 400 words.
- Describe who you expect to be the beneficiaries of the research and the nature of the impact on the beneficiaries — the beneficiaries may include, for example, patients, clinical staff, policymakers, groups of the general public. Maximum 250 words.

- Describe the reach and significance of the impact alongside expected timelines — as an example, this may include number of patients and the expected level of impact on them. Maximum 250 words.
6. Planned communications and outreach around the research programme to ensure impact on society
- Outline the key elements from your research that you have communicated, or are planning to communicate, to support the impact on society — for example, early on the focus of your communications or outreach might be on building awareness of your research goals, whereas later the focus might be building influence, or ensuring the research is used, taken up or applied. Maximum 250 words.
 - Please outline completed and planned communications, detailing the audiences, objectives, communication channels and time frames — explain how you would communicate the key elements from the previous question. Examples of audiences include health-care practitioners, policymakers, patients and groups of the general public. Where possible be specific (e.g., clinical lead on X). Examples of communication channels may include social media, websites, meetings, and online networks. Maximum 250 words.
7. References
- Please provide details of two referees, including name, organization, email, phone, and their relationship to you. Referees may be contacted for any shortlisted applicants, including the winner and runner up.

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 4th November 2018 and 11.59 PM GMT on 9th February 2019.

Contact

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