



Celebrating  
75 years of  
excellence in  
science writing

## ABSW Awards policy and guidelines 2022

### Purpose

To recognise and reward excellence and innovation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics journalism and writing.

### Eligibility

Work published or broadcast between 01 January 2021 and 31 December 2021 and accessible to the general public.

The cover date on the issue in which an article appears will be considered the date of publication;

The date/time of posting will be considered for online articles, podcasts or blogs;

The date/time of first broadcast will be considered for radio or television entries;

For a series, the items submitted for the Awards must fall within these dates;

Submissions must be substantially about science, technology, engineering or medicine (STEM) or their impacts, rather than non-science pieces about health, medicine or the environment.

The Awards are for works published within the UK or Ireland and are intended for British and Irish-based journalists and writers, or those working for audiences in these two countries.

The Awards are for individual journalists and writers, or teams of up to four people, rather than for the organisation, institution, employer or publisher. All team members must be named in team submissions.

The judges reserve the right to reallocate an entry to a category different from the one in which it has been entered, as well as the right to withhold an award in any category. The decision of the judges in all matters will be final. The judges will not provide individual advice or feedback to entrants.

Submissions can be made to a maximum of **three** categories.

The Awards are free to enter for ABSW members or £55 per entry for non-members. Please note that ABSW members cannot (i) submit to any category on behalf of non-member colleagues nor (ii) nominate colleagues – all entries must be submitted directly.

### Timetable

Monday 03 January 2022 09:00 GMT: submissions open

Monday 31 January 2022 23:59 GMT: submissions close

Thursday 31 March 09:00 BST: shortlisted entries announced

Date TBC: Awards Ceremony

## Categories

### **Editor of the Year**

The judges are looking for editing achievements in STEM subjects that go beyond the ordinary; this may include but is not restricted to:

- launching or relaunching new sections, publications, websites or other media
- demonstrating extraordinary leadership or excellence in breaking significant stories
- supporting and developing the editorial team

Particular consideration will be given to submissions from editors who set the overall strategic direction for a particular title, rather than section editors.

Individual submissions only

### **British Science Journalist of the Year**

For excellence and creativity in journalism; this may include but is not limited to:

- entertaining and informing audiences
- inspiring new generations of journalists and writers

Individual submissions only

### **Steve Connor Award for Investigative Science Journalism**

For an in-depth investigation into a topic of scientific interest, leading to a conclusion. Submissions should detail any lengthy or complicated evidence gathering, and any difficulties faced.

The award can be for a single item or a series of items, although only **one** item in the series can be entered for judging.

Individual submissions only

### **Stephen White Award for reporting of science in a non-science context**

For making complicated ideas accessible to the non-specialist general public and in outlets that do not normally cover science stories.

STEM publications and programmes, publications that routinely and frequently publish STEM articles, or STEM sections of publications (*New Scientist*, BBC Radio *Inside Science*) are **not** eligible

Individual or team submissions are eligible

### **The Dr Katharine Giles Award for best popular article written by a scientist or engineer**

For a single article aimed at a lay audience.

Individual submissions only; winners will be offered media skills training through the Dr Katharine Giles Fund

The judges are looking for excellence and creativity in journalism; this may include but is not limited to:

- Quality of journalism and clarity of reporting
- Creativity in reaching a new audience
- Likely impact
- Ability to translate complex themes

### **Feature of the Year: general audience**

For a feature published in print or online in any title that is primarily consumed by, and aimed at, a general, lay audience, whether broadsheet or tabloid in style.

Examples include *The Guardian*, *The Economist*, *New Scientist*, *Financial Times*, *Unearthed*, *BBC News*

The feature may be part of a series or a standalone piece.

### **Feature of the Year: specialist audience**

For a feature published in print or online in any title that targets specific, specialist audiences such as scientists, health professionals, chemists or engineers, whether trade press or other specialist publication.

Examples include *Nature*, *Carbon Brief*, *Chemistry World*, *Physics World*, *Computer Weekly*

The feature may be part of a series or a standalone piece.

### **News Item of the Year**

For a single news item published or broadcast in any medium. Examples include breaking news stories and first in-depth reports.

The judges look for evidence that the story is new to the relevant audience, as well as excellent writing and original reporting.

### **The Royal Society Audio of the Year**

For an audio programme where STEM is the primary issue covered.

The award can be for a single programme or series, although only one item in the series can be entered for judging

Individual or team submissions are eligible.

### **Podcast of the Year**

For an audio programme where STEM is the primary issue covered.

The award can be for a single programme or series, although only one item in the series can be entered for judging

Individual or team submissions are eligible.

### **Newcomer of the Year**

For science writers who published their first piece within the past three years (01 January 2019 – 31 December 2021).

Entrants should be currently working in journalism, whether freelance or staff, full-time or part-time

Individual submissions only.

### **Video of the year**

For a programme where STEM is the primary issue covered.

The award can be for a single programme or series, although only one item in the series can be entered for judging. Online videos on platforms such as YouTube are eligible.

Individual or team submissions are eligible.

### **News Analysis or Explanatory Reporting of the Year**

For stories that are neither hard news nor fully-fledged features that provide an insightful explanation of science behind the headlines and valuable new context and background to the news.

Individual submissions only.

### **Research Policy or Funding Story of the Year**

For stories that tackle policy and funding agendas related to science and technology research.

Individual submissions only.

### **Opinion/Editorial of the Year**

For written work that expresses an opinion or aims to change opinion. This includes opinion columns, editorial and blogs.

Individual submissions only.