

ABSW Awards policy and guidelines 2021-22

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 2020 and 31 December 2020 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 (excluding consumer 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.

Timetable

Monday 04 January 2021 09:00 GMT: submissions open

Monday 01 February 2021 23:59 GMT: submissions close

Wednesday 31 March 09:00 BST: shortlisted entries announced

Thursday 08 July 2021 19:00 BST: Awards Ceremony

Categories

Editor of the Year

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

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
- innovation in their main area of expertise

Individual submissions only

Steve Connor Award for Investigative Journalism

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

Individual submissions only

The National Union of Journalists 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 specific article aimed at a lay audience.

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

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 a programme or podcast 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 2018 – 31 December 2020).

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

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.