**The Prime Minister’s Science Communication Prize**

**About the Prize**

* This Prize will be awarded to either a practising scientist1 who can demonstrate an interest, passion and aptitude for science communication and public engagement, ***or*** to a person who has developed expertise in public engagement with, or communication of complex scientific or technological information to the public.
* $50,000 of the Prize is to be used to support the recipient to carry out a programme of activities to further their understanding and skills in science communication.
* $50,000 of the Prize is available to the recipient with no expectations on its use.
* **Entries close 5pm (NZST) Friday 16 September 2016.**

**1Taken to include natural, physical, mathematical and information sciences, applied science, technology, engineering, social science and multi-disciplinary science**

**Eligibility**

* The Prize will be awarded to either a practicsing scientist1 who can demonstrate an interest, passion and aptitude for science communication and public engagement, ***or*** to a person who has developed expertise in public engagement with, or communication of complex scientific or technological information to the public using recent examples *e.g.* public audiences, local science community/wider and international science community
* Applicants must be a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand permanent resident.
* Re-application by applicants from previous years is encouraged, as long as the eligibility criteria continue to be met. However, past winners of the Prize will not be eligible to enter a second time.

 **Selection Criteria**

The Prize will be adjudicated on the applicant’s commitment and aptitude for science communication and public engagement.

Applicants should present an application statement setting out (with cross reference to an attached evidence portfolio) on the following selection criteria.

* Their approach to science communication, including how to identify appropriate means for engagement, and how to design an engagement or communication programme.
* Evidence of recent successful science communication or engagement activities with a diversity of audiences.
* The proposed programme of developmental activity that would be undertaken if the application was successful.
* How the applicant intends to further their role in science communication in the future.

Assessment will include consideration of referees’ statements and an interview of shortlisted candidates.

**Entry Process**

* All entries must be completed and received by **5pm (NZST) Friday 16 September 2016.**
* The process will involve interested individuals completing an online entry form.
* Entrants will need to upload a one page CV and an evidence portfolio (up to ten pages)
* They will also need one current Supporter who must be knowledgeable about the applicant’s communication and public engagement activities and is able to comment on their effectiveness.

The supporter will be expected to complete an on-line form which asks them to address the selection criteria. *A link will be emailed to the supporter after the entry section has been completed.*

Please note that information provided in the nomination may be subject to the Official Information Act.

### Expectations

* The Prime Minister’s Science Communication Prize is worth $100,000 to the recipient.
* $50,000 of the Prize is to be used to support the recipient to carry out a programme of activities to further their understanding and skills in science communication and public engagement.
* $50,000 of the Prize is available to the recipient with no expectations on its use.
* The recipient of the Prize would be expected to be involved in promotional opportunities appropriate to receiving the Prime Minister’s Science Communication Prize.
* The details of this programme will be developed in conjunction with the Prime Minister’s Science Prizes secretariat.
* The winner is expected to make themselves available for half a day in the third week of November 2016 to meet with the Prime Minister's Science Prize media liaison personnel in preparation of media material and photos.
* The winner will be announced in February 2017.  (date to be confirmed)
* The winner will be expected to make themselves available for that announcement in February in Wellington.

**Confidentiality**

* The Secretariat gives no undertaking to keep confidential any information that is provided in the nomination form unless this is identified as information that should be treated as such. It may, for example, be used to prepare promotional material for the Prize in future years.

**Selection Panel**

* The selection panel is selected by the secretariat and the Prime Minister’s decision to present the Prize will have regard to the advice of the judging panel.
* It is recognised that occasionally members of the selection panels will know applicants or have other conflicts of interest. They will be expected to declare all such knowledge and conflicts of interests. In the case of knowing an applicant the Chair of the selection panel will rule if this is significant enough for the judge to be stood down from the panel for that applicant. (In the case of the Chair having a conflict of interest the decision will be made by another member of the Panel who has been identified in this role at the beginning of the process). If there is a conflict of interest the judge will stand down for that application.
* The selection panel will not enter into any correspondence concerning its deliberations. All inquiries should be directed to the Secretariat.
* Note that information on matters such as ranking, or names of unsuccessful nominees, will not be disclosed.

**Selection Process**

The Panel will make its decision based on the information in the online forms completed by the applicant and supporter. The selection panel will hold interviews with shortlisted applicants.

**Checklist for entering the Prime Minister’s Science Communication Prize**

* Applicants are a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand permanent resident.
* Applicants are either a practising scientist1 who can demonstrate an interest, passion and aptitude for science communication and public engagement ***or*** a person who has developed expertise in public engagement with, or communication of complex scientific or technological information to the public.
* Applicants have nominated a supporter who has a solid understanding of their interest in communication and is able to give expert, current opinion.
* Applicants are required to provide evidence of their approach to science communication, including how to identify appropriate means for engagement, and how to design an engagement or communication programme.
* Applicants are to provide evidence of recent successful science communication or engagement activities with a diversity of audiences
* Applicants are required to provide details of the proposed programme of developmental activity that would be undertaken if they were successful.
* How would the applicant intend to further your role in science communication in the future?
* The applicant will also be required to attach a one page CV and a evidence portfolio (maximum 10 pages)

**Closing**

**Entries close 5pm (NZST) Friday, 16 September 2016.**

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**Secretariat**

The Secretariat for the Prime Minister’s Science Prizes is The Royal Society of New Zealand.

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