

**The Prime Minister’s MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize 2016**

**About the Prize**

* This Prize is for an outstanding emerging scientist1 who has had their PhD or equivalent qualification conferred within the past eight (8) years (i.e. from 1 January 2008 onwards).
* The Prime Minister’s MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize is worth 200,000. $50,000 will go directly to the recipient with no expectations and $150,000 will go to support their ongoing work.
* Entries for this prize close at **5pm, (NZST) Friday 16 September 2016.**

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**Eligibility**

* This Prize is for an outstanding emerging scientist1 who has had their PhD or equivalent qualification conferred within the past eight (8) years (i.e. from 1 January 2008 onwards).
* The applicant must be either a New Zealand citizen or a New Zealand permanent resident, currently domiciled in New Zealand.
* The recipient of the Prize is expected to remain active in research in New Zealand for at least the year following the presentation of the Prize.
* Re-application by candidates 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.

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

**Selection Criteria**

The Prize will be adjudicated on the following criteria:

* The research carried out by the applicant is leading edge in its field;
* The research has already, or is likely to result in the generation of valuable new knowledge in the field, or have wider impact;
* The applicant is able to effectively communicate their research.

Each applicant should address these criteria in the application statement and cross reference that statement to an attached evidence portfolio (up to ten pages).

Assessment will include consideration of referees’ statements and an interview of short-listed applicants.

**Entry Process**

* All entries must be received by **5pm (NZST), Friday 16 September 2015**.
* Applicants must complete an on-line entry form for the Prime Minister’s MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize. This is accessed via the “Enter Now” web-page. This form asks for your name, organisation, research title and contact details.
* You will be asked to upload a summary of your research written for an academic audience, up to a maximum of 1000 words. This summary is used to assess the scientific merit of your research in terms of the three selection criteria. Research activity undertaken prior to commencement of your PhD studies should be acknowledged but will not normally be taken into account. Rather judging will focus on how you have been able to harness opportunities to develop your research programme after completion of your PhD.
* Provide details of your research question(s), methodology and conclusions and results;

* Ensure you specifically address all three selection criteria - separate sub-sections addressed to each criterion might be included;
* If you are working as part of a research team, you need to make it clear how your research contributes to the team’s objectives;
* You may include diagrams or pictures to help explain your research. Please keep the number of these small as this is a summary - not a full dissertation.
* Upload your Curriculum Vitae in standard New Zealand format (maximum two pages) include information on published papers, patents or patents pending, and any other measures of professional achievement that you have gained. A two-page limit for CV’s must be strictly adhered to.
* The entry must be endorsed by two supporters: both of whom will be able to comment on your research and your ability to effectively communicate your research.

The supporters will be required to complete a confidential on-line form which addresses the criteria. *A link will be emailed to the Supporters once the entry section has been completed.*

Supporters must submit all documents by **5pm (NZST), Friday 16 September 2016.**

* Post, fax or scan and email your signed Declaration of Assurance to:

Secretariat

The Prime Minister’s Science Prizes

PO Box 90-040

Auckland 1142

Fax: (09) 360-1242

Email: [pmscienceprizes@tcc.co.nz](mailto:pmscienceprizes@tcc.co.nz)

* Entrants will be asked to agree that any information on the entry form may be used in publicity for the Prizes (see *Confidentiality*).
* Please note that information submitted on the entry form may be subject to the Official Information Act.
* A condition of entry is that the Judging Panel may contact outside parties to verify information if needed.

**Judging**

* The selection panel will make its decision based on the written information which has been supplied. A nominee may also be invited to an interview which would include a 10 minute presentation about their research to the panel.

**Selection Panel**

* An independent 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 selection panel.
* It is recognised that occasionally members of the selection panel will know applicants, or have other conflicts of interest. They will be expected to declare all conflicts of interest when these situations arise. In the case of knowing an applicant, the Chair of the selection panel will rule if this is significant enough for the panelist to be stood down from the committee 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).
* The Selection Panel will not enter into any correspondence concerning its deliberations. All inquiries should be directed to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will not disclose information on matters such as ranking, or names of nominees.

**Confidentiality**

* The Secretariat gives no undertaking to keep confidential any information that is provided in this application 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.

**Expectations**

* The Prize recipient will use the $150,000 prize money to support their on-going work, and will submit a plan to the Prime Minister’s Science Prize Secretariat for the use of this funding after they have won.
* $50,000 of the prize money 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 MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize.
* 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.

**Checklist**

* Fully completed online entry form
* Research Summary (maximum 1000 words)
* Curriculum Vitae in standard NZ format (maximum 2 pages)
* Evidence Portfolio (up to 10 pages)
* Details of your two supporters so they can be sent their forms.
* Read and sign the Terms and Conditions of this prize.
* Sign and send the Declaration of Assurance

**Closing**

**Entries must be received by 5pm, (NZST) Friday, 16 September**

**Secretariat**

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

Secretariat

The Prime Minister’s Science Prizes

PO Box 90-040

Auckland 1142

Phone: (09) 360 1240

Fax: (09) 360-1242

Email:  [pmscienceprizes@tcc.co.n](mailto:pmscienceprizes@tcc.co.nz)z