



Willy Aspinall Prize

The Willy Aspinall Prize may be made annually to the lead author of an outstanding paper on applied volcanology or geoheritage published in English, who is within three years of their being awarded a PhD at a university in the UK. The Prize is named in honour of Prof. Willy Aspinall who is a distinguished professor at the University of Bristol and a hazard and risk science consultant.

The award will take the form of a cash prize (£400), a certificate, and a contribution towards attendance at an annual meeting of the Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group (VMSG), where the winner will be invited to present their paper.

Nominators may be of any career stage, and may include PhD students. The nomination will be assessed independently of the career stage of the nominator.

Applications should be sent to the VMSG Awards and Bursaries Officer (please see email on website) by **15 September** of the application year.

Eligibility

The nominee should have been awarded their PhD but not yet hold a permanent or tenure-track position, or hold an independent fellowship that is three or more years in total duration.

The nominee should either have completed their PhD research at a UK or Irish University, and ideally be an active participant in the VMSG community. We particularly encourage nominations for those who identify within historically under-represented groups.

The nominated publication would normally have been published within three years of the nominee being awarded their PhD. Accepted pre-prints can be considered. The nominee should be the lead author on the publication. The nominator(s) may be co-authors on the publication.

Current VMSG committee members are eligible to be nominated. However, those committee members eligible for nomination will not be involved in assessing applications (whether they are nominated or not).

Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed according to the following areas:

- Novelty (33%) - is the motivation and approach innovative and progressive, and does nominee's contribution shine through?
- Quality (33%) - does the research demonstrate robust and ethical data collection, thoughtful interpretation, and high quality, accessible presentation (e.g., figures)?

- Practical applicability in volcanology (33%) - to what extent does the research have practical application in applied volcanology?

Scientific quality will be assessed using DORA principles (<https://sfdora.org/read/>) and will not include consideration of any publication metrics or the journal where the research was published.

Members of the awarding panel are required to watch (or re-watch) the Royal Society video on Unconscious Bias immediately before assessing applications: <https://royalsociety.org/topics-policy/publications/2015/unconscious-bias/>.

The awarding panel reserves the right to make no award in any given year. It may also be appropriate for a joint award to be granted in any given year. The awarding panel reserves the right to re-advertise if the applicant pool is not diverse.