



Zeiss Postdoctoral Keynote Award

The Zeiss Postdoctoral Keynote Award may be made annually to the lead author of an outstanding paper on a topic within the VMSG remit, who has also made an exceptional contribution to individuals, the wider research community or broader society, commensurate with their career stage.

The Award winner will have the opportunity to present their research as a keynote talk at the annual VMSG conference in January. The keynote talk may be given in person or as virtual presentation.

Nomination process

An eligible individual may be nominated by one or more nominators, OR may self-nominate

Self-nominations are encouraged and whether an application is self-nominated or nominated by others will not be known to the assessment panel or made public. Should a self-nomination win a suitable person will be confidentially engaged by the VMSG awards officer to read the citation.

Nomination is by the identification of one research publication, accompanied by an application form that provides an opportunity to describe (a) how the nominated research paper is novel or innovative in its approach and how the findings have contributed to the generation of knowledge, and (b) how the nominee has contributed to supporting individuals or the research community, or to generating impact for broader society.

The application form must be completed in the third person (he/she/they) regardless of whether it is a self-nomination.

The application form also requires comment on the nominee's contribution to the paper. We encourage you to refer to the principles of the CRediT author statement for outlining contributions: <https://www.elsevier.com/authors/policies-and-guidelines/credit-author-statement>.

Nominators may be of any career stage, and may include PhD students. The nomination will be assessed independently of the career stage of the nominators. Individuals should feel comfortable to approach their colleagues or peers to nominate them, or to nominate themselves.

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

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 university-level education at a UK or Irish University or be employed by a UK or Irish University or Research institute (e.g. BGS) or be a UK or Irish national.

The nominated publication would normally have been published within the past three years prior to nomination. Accepted pre-prints are eligible to be considered. The nominee should be the lead author on the publication. The nominator(s) may be co-authors on the publication.

Assessment criteria

Nominations will be assessed according to the following areas:

Research paper (70%)

- Novelty, significance or innovation in the research design
- Quality of the research
- Accessibility of the research (e.g., open data and reproducible code)

Exceptional contributions (30%)

- Contributions by the nominee to supporting individuals (e.g., mentorship) or the research community, or to generating impact for broader society.
- Contributions will be evaluated commensurate to career stage

Scientific quality will be assessed using DORA principles (<https://sfedora.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.