



# Blavatnik Awards *for* Young Scientists

## 2014 Regional Postdoctoral Competition Guidelines

The regional postdoctoral competition of the [Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists](#) recognizes the most promising postdoctoral-rank scientists and engineers from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut working in [disciplines](#) within the life sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

Three winners will each receive \$30,000 in unrestricted funds, and six finalists will each receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds.

The regional postdoctoral awards will be conferred at a ceremony held in autumn 2014 in New York City.

### Limited Submission

**Nominations for the 2014 regional postdoctoral competition are open from December 2, 2013 to 11:59 pm EST on January 31, 2014.**

All nominations for the regional postdoctoral competition must be submitted by the institution's President, Provost, or the President's official designee. Each institution may nominate up to fifteen candidates for the 2014 awards cycle.

### Eligibility

To be eligible, a candidate must:

- Have been born in or after 1972.
- Have earned a doctoral degree (PhD, DPhil, MD, DDS, DVM, etc.).
- Currently hold a postdoctoral-rank position at a research institution located in New York, New Jersey, or Connecticut.
- Have made significant research contributions to [disciplines](#) within the life sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, or engineering.

Candidates may be nominated up to two times for the regional postdoctoral competition. Past postdoctoral winners are not eligible for nomination.

The Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists welcomes nominations of candidates from underrepresented groups in science and engineering.

## Timeline

- December 2, 2013: Nominations open
- January 31, 2014: Nominations close
- February 14, 2014: Recommendations due
- Summer 2014: Winners and finalists selected
- Autumn 2014: Awards ceremony in New York City

## Evaluation Criteria

The candidate and his/her work will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- *Quality*: The extent to which the work is reliable, valid, credible, and scientifically rigorous.
- *Impact*: The extent to which the work addresses an important problem and is influential in the candidate's field.
- *Novelty*: The extent to which the work challenges existing paradigms, employs new methodologies or concepts, and/or pursues an original question.
- *Promise*: The candidate's potential for an independent career and further significant contributions to science or science-related fields.

## Roles and Responsibilities

There are three roles in the nomination process:

*Nominator*: The nominator endorses the candidate by submitting the Nomination Form. Nominators must be the institution's President (or equivalent) or Provost, or the President's official designee. If the nominator is the President's official designee, he/she must email the Awards staff at [blavatnikawards@nyas.org](mailto:blavatnikawards@nyas.org) confirming this delegation of responsibilities before submitting nominations.

*Candidate*: The candidate is the individual under consideration for the award, referred by his/her nominator. The candidate may work directly with the nominator but does not fill out the Nomination Form. The candidate should not contact the awards staff directly; he/she should direct all questions to the nominator.

*Recommender*: The recommender submits a letter of recommendation in support of the candidate's nomination. Recommenders should be individuals who currently have or have had a close professional relationship with the candidate and are knowledgeable about the candidate's contribution to his/her field of research. Two recommenders are required to submit letters for the candidate.

## Preparing to Nominate

Nominations for the 2014 competition open **Monday, December 2, 2013** and close **Friday, January 31, 2014 at 11:59 pm EST**. A link to the online Nomination Form will be posted on the main awards website during the nomination period. Nominations may only be submitted using the online platform; materials submitted any other way will not be accepted.

To complete the Nomination Form, nominators will need the following documents and information:

- Basic biographical and contact information for the candidate and nominator.
- Nominator's Rationale for Nomination: a statement explaining why the candidate is being nominated (maximum 2,000 characters).
- Candidate's Curriculum Vitae (maximum 4 pages).
- Candidate's Research Statement (maximum 500 words).
- Full-text publications and/or patents representing the candidate's best work (maximum 4 publications).
- Contact information for two recommenders who can attest to the candidate's qualifications and research contributions to his/her field.

### **Nomination Form**

Beginning **Monday, December 2, 2013**, a link to the online Nomination Form will be available on the main Awards [website](#).

To complete the Nomination Form, the nominators must first click the *Sign-Up* button located on the lower right side of the home screen. You must register an account and follow the on-screen instructions to verify your credentials prior to accessing the form.

Once the account is verified, log back into the portal, follow the on-screen instructions, and click the *Create New Submission* button to begin.

#### **Page 1: Candidate Information**

*First and last name:* First and last names are required. Please be sure that the spelling of both names is correct.

*Email address:* Candidate's professional/institutional email address. Please do not enter personal email addresses (e.g. johndoe@gmail.com).

*Phone number:* Phone number where the candidate can be reached directly.

*Official title:* Title or position as designated by the candidate's institution, e.g., Postdoctoral Associate. Please omit honorary or endowed descriptions and degrees such as PhD, MD, DPhil, DDS, or DVM. Please do not abbreviate.

*Primary department:* If applicable; otherwise leave blank. Please do not abbreviate.

*Primary institution:* Full name of the candidate's home institution. Please do not abbreviate.

*Work address/city/state/zip code:* Full mailing address of the candidate's office location.

*Date of birth:* Year, month, and day of the candidate's birth. Candidates for the 2014 Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists competition **must** be born in or after 1972.

*Disciplinary category:* Major area of the candidate's research, corresponding to one of the eligible disciplines.

## **Page 2: Nominator Information**

*First and last name:* First and last names are required.

*Official title:* Title or position as designated by the nominator's institution. Please omit honorary or endowed descriptions and degrees such as PhD, MD, DPhil, DDS, or DVM. Please do not abbreviate.

*Institution:* Complete name of the institution where the nominator is currently employed. Please do not abbreviate.

*Email address:* Nominator's professional/institutional email address.

*Phone number:* Phone number where the nominator can be reached directly.

## **Rationale for Nomination**

Please prepare a 2,000-character statement (including spaces) describing the candidate and his/her work according to the following evaluation criteria:

- *Quality:* The extent to which the work is reliable, valid, credible, and scientifically rigorous.
- *Impact:* The extent to which the work addresses an important problem and is influential in the candidate's field.
- *Novelty:* The extent to which the work challenges existing paradigms, employs new methodologies or concepts, and/or pursues an original question.
- *Promise:* The candidate's potential for an independent career and further significant contributions to science or science-related fields.

The Rationale for Nomination should address the candidate's record of significant scientific contributions, creativity, responsibility, early career success, and potential for sustained or accelerated research success in the future.

## **Page 3: Supporting Documents**

***Curriculum Vitae*** (Label file: **LastName\_FirstName-CV.pdf**) [CV Format Example](#)

(4-page maximum in 10-point Arial font), including:

- Full name.
- Current institution(s).
- Position title.
- Education and training – List institutions, degrees, years, and fields of study in chronological order, concluding with the most recent degree; include postdoctoral training or residency, if applicable.
- Professional appointments – List professional positions and years in chronological order, concluding with the current position.
- Honors or awards – List awards in chronological order.
- Select peer-reviewed publications – List only published work or manuscripts in press in chronological order; do not include manuscripts that are submitted or in preparation; use the MEDLINE/PubMed format: [http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/policy/cit\\_format.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/policy/cit_format.html).
- Select patents – List patents in chronological order.

- Research support – List selected ongoing and completed projects on which you were a principal investigator, co-investigator; or other senior/key personnel (see definitions of these roles in the [NIH Glossary](#)); do not include award amounts and percent effort.

**Research Statement (Label file: LastName\_FirstName-Statement.pdf)**

(500-word maximum in 10-point Arial font)

- Summary of the candidate's research activities written for an audience of PhD-level scientists or engineers in the candidate's general disciplinary area.
- Focus should be on the candidate's scientific achievements and outline the main themes of the candidate's research and the most significant scientific results. Specifically, the following questions should be addressed:
  1. **Quality:** What indicates high quality of this research?
  2. **Novelty:** What does this contribute to the candidate's field that has not been done before?
  3. **Impact:** Why is this research significant and how does this work influence the candidate's field of study or science, technology, health or other, more general, areas of knowledge?
- Collaborations that the candidate initiated and his/her individual contributions to collaborative work may be included.
- Candidates are also encouraged to outline their vision of the future research activities and how these activities will be founded in their current achievements.
- One figure with a legend may be included and will not count toward 500-word limit. The figure should be directly relevant to the Statement and the legend, if included, should be kept reasonably brief.
- The Statement should not duplicate the candidate's CV (e.g. academic appointments and awards should not be included). However, relevant scientific service, such as participation in advisory committees, may be mentioned.

**Key Publications and Patents (Label files: LastName\_FirstName-Pub1.pdf, ...-Pub2.pdf, etc.)**

Full-text published papers or filed patents of the candidate's work (4 publications maximum). Files should not be larger than 10MB each. **Research conducted during the candidate's doctoral training should not be submitted.**

**Confirm Nomination**

Please check the box to agree to the following statement of confirmation: *I confirm that this nomination is accurate to the best of my knowledge. This candidate represents one of up to fifteen candidates nominated by my institution for the regional postdoctoral competition of the 2014 Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists, and therefore has the full support of the institution.*

**Letters of Recommendation**

Letters should not be longer than two double-spaced pages. Nominators must submit the names and email addresses for both recommenders on behalf of the candidate. After this information is submitted, an automated email will be sent to the recommenders, instructing them to upload their recommendation letters as PDF documents. Recommendation letters are confidential: The nominator will be able to view when each letter has been submitted, but neither the nominator nor the candidate will be able to view the contents of the letters. **Recommendations are due by 11:59 pm EST on Friday, February 14, 2014.**

## Submitting the Nomination Packet

When the Nomination Form is complete, and all supporting documents and contact information for both recommenders have been uploaded, the *Submit* button will be activated on the bottom of the screen. This button must be clicked—and the entire application submitted—by **11:59 pm EST** on **Friday, January 31, 2014**. Please be advised that the form has not been submitted until the nominator receives an on-screen confirmation notice *and* an automated email. Nominators will not be able to edit the form after it is submitted.

## Additional Information

### Judging

Distinguished experts from a broad range of scientific and engineering disciplines serve on the Judging Panel and will evaluate nominations based on the criteria described.

### Questions

For general questions related to the competition or specific questions about nomination/eligibility requirements, please first consult the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

For questions related to the functionality of the online forms, please click the *Support* button located on the left side of the Nomination Form screen. Inquiries submitted using this button will be answered within 48 hours.

If your questions remain unanswered, please contact the Blavatnik Awards staff at [blavatnikawards@nyas.org](mailto:blavatnikawards@nyas.org) or 212.298.8624 (M-F, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm EST).