

RULES AND REGULATIONS

UNESCO-RUSSIA MENDELEEV INTERNATIONAL PRIZE IN THE BASIC SCIENCES

2021 EDITION

Introduction

The purpose of the **UNESCO-Russia Mendeleev International Prize in the Basic Sciences** is to recognize and reward scientists for major achievements in terms of development, dissemination, and international cooperation in the fields of basic sciences, which have had a significant transformational impact on a regional or global scale.

It aims to promote and honour excellence in the basic sciences, defined to include the disciplines of chemistry, physics, mathematics and biology, the foundation on which scientific knowledge can be propagated, and which are fundamental to the advancement of innovation and sustainable development.

The UNESCO-Russia Mendeleev International Prize in the Basic Sciences is administered in accordance with its Statutes, approved by UNESCO's Executive Board at its 207th session.

The Prize shall be awarded every year to two **individual** prize-winners at each edition.

Each of the two individual prize-winners will receive a financial award of \$250,000 as well as a gold medal and a diploma.

Candidatures of women scientists are encouraged.

Eligibility criteria

The nominees must have scientific achievements that are conducive to socio-economic transformation and impact development on a regional or global scale, based on:

1. Excellence in research in the fields of basic sciences;
2. Basic sciences education and popularization;
3. International or regional cooperation in the basic sciences.

There is no age limit for the nominees.

Selection criteria

The selection criteria of the candidates are the following:

- The candidate's outstanding contribution to/achievement in research and innovation in the basic sciences in the form of a published communication, basic sciences education and dissemination;
- The impact of the candidate's research on the current state of the relevant scientific fields: chemistry, physics, mathematics and biology (number, quality and impact of publications, conference presentations, patents, impact on society);
- The recognition of the candidate by peers within his/her discipline through multi-stakeholders' collaborations or publications conducive to scientific innovation and discoveries in basic sciences for sustainable development;

- The recognition of the candidate’s commitments to basic sciences and to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development more broadly.

The Prize cannot be awarded to the same person more than once.

Nominations

Nominations shall be submitted by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, by non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO and active in relevant fields covered by the Prize, by UNESCO Chairs, category 2 centres, international scientific unions and universities.

No self-nomination shall be considered.

Nominations must be completed in full, in English or French, which are UNESCO’s working languages.

Nominations can **only** be submitted electronically, through an **online dedicated template**.

Nominations that are incomplete or received after **Monday 15 March 2021**, as well applications that do not meet the above-mentioned requirements, shall not be considered.

An application is considered complete **only** if it includes all of the following documents:

- A brief explanation of why (a definition of the candidate’s contribution to the Prize’s objectives) the nominator considers the candidate to be eligible for the UNESCO-Russia Mendeleev International Prize in the Basic Sciences (**up to 500 words**).
- A curriculum vitae (**2-3 pages**). The nominator must include in the CV (or in the publications list) any reference to the candidate’s scientific social networks and websites (such as ResearchGate, the Organization for Research and Community Development (ORCID), or personal website).
- The 20 most significant publications indexed by the Web of Science and Scopus databases in the Journals that occupy the 1st and the 2nd Quartile should be listed in order of importance with the following: a summary explaining their significance and why they are so relevant according to the nominator (**less than 50 words**). Please, add links to access all publications mentioned in the list.
- A list of the most significant patents, starting with the most recent one (**maximum 2 pages**).
- **Three** letters of recommendation from eminent scientists outside of the candidate’s home institution.
- The impact of the key technical or professional achievements and results of work on: (i) society; (ii) international scientific collaboration; (iii) the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (**up to 2000 words**).
- A concise, clear, unambiguous and specific description of the nominee’s achievements and results of work making that nominee eligible for the Prize (**up to 10 words**).

Selection process

1. The Prize’s Team reviews all applications received before the deadline and transmits the eligible applications to the Jury of the Prize.

2. The Jury of the Prize meets once a year to assess the applications.
3. The Director-General selects the prize-winners based on the assessment and recommendation of the Jury of the Prize.
4. The Prize shall be awarded by the Director-General or her representative to the individual prize-winners during an official ceremony held for that purpose in alternation at UNESCO's premises at Headquarters in Paris and in the Russian Federation.

Jury selection

The Jury of the UNESCO-Russia Mendeleev International Prize in the Basic Sciences is composed of seven distinguished members of the international scientific community.

The Jury of the Prize will evaluate the eligible applications, in accordance with the above-mentioned selection criteria.

For the Jury deliberation, which will be held in mid-June 2021, the Jury of the Prize will review and discuss the best nominations. The Jury will select the two individual prize-winners based on excellence, by consensus to the extent possible and otherwise by secret ballot until a simple majority is obtained. **A Jury member shall not take part in the vote concerning a nominated candidate from his or her country.** Appeals against the decision shall not be admissible.

The prize-winners shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments on the nominations and accompanying recommendations made to her by the Jury.

The results will be communicated by phone to the two individual prize-winners a few days after the deliberation. They must remain confidential until the official announcement.

Prize-winners' commitments

The prize-winners notably commit to:

- Apply the **confidentiality clause** to the whole nomination procedure until the official announcement and not contact the media before that time. The nomination process is strictly confidential. No preliminary public discussion of the nomination process or its stages is allowed. **Nominators and other participants of the process shall not disclose the nominations submitted.**
- Participate in the awards ceremony and all related events (interviews, lectures, dinners, etc.) organized during the ceremony.
- Travel and accommodation expenses to attend the awards ceremony are covered by the Prize, as per UNESCO's travel rules and regulations.
- The prize-winners agree to be photographed, filmed and interviewed for non-commercial objectives. These photos, videos and texts will be used in publications and audiovisual materials including, but not limited to, written press, television, internet, outdoor display, corporate publications and exhibitions.
- The prize-winners agree to share materials that can be used to illustrate the achievements recognized by the Prize, to promote basic sciences to the public and among the scientific community, particularly women.
- Each of the prize-winners will sign a separate written audiovisual authorization.

- The prize-winners will not receive any remuneration for such promotional activity:
1. Within one year after the awarding, participate in at least two events (speeches, lectures, awarding of the prize-winners of various competitions, etc.) held by the Prize's Team.
 2. Indicate their laureate status when registering and participating in international events, in author credentials and interviews.
 3. Share information with the Prize's Team about the most significant events in which their participation is planned, about published articles, interviews and books, and provide relevant photo and video materials, quotes of speeches etc.
 4. Participate in publications dedicated to the laureates of the Prize and the works for which they were nominated, and submit the following materials in that connection:
 - autobiography;
 - text and illustrations for the laureate's lecture;
 - the text of the speech for the award ceremony;
 - photos of their choice illustrating the autobiography; and
 - bibliography.
- The prize-winners agree to join the alumni network of the Prize to share the results of their work after their nomination.

Timetable

Nominations opening date: **November 2020**

Nominations closing date: **15 March 2021**

Review by the Prize's Team: **March 2021**

Examination by the Jury: **early-April to mid-June 2021**

Jury deliberation meeting: **mid-June 2021**

Awards Ceremony: **Autumn 2021**

For more information about the Prize and the nomination process, please click here: [UNESCO-Russia Mendeleev International Prize in the Basic Sciences](#)

Any enquiries with regard to the nomination process should be addressed directly to the Prize's Team (tel.: +33 (0)1 45 68 10 61; e-mail: mendeleevprize@unesco.org).