



The  
Prime  
Minister's  
Science  
Prizes

Celebrating New Zealand Science

## The Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize 2016

### About the Prize

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This Prize is for an outstanding emerging scientist undertaking research and who has had their PhD conferred within the last five years (to be eligible the entrant must have been awarded their PhD from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, or later).

The Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize is worth \$200,000 to the recipient.

Entries for this prize open on **Monday 14 March 2016**, and closes at **5pm, (NZST) Friday 20 May 2016**.

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### Eligibility

The Prize is given in recognition of an outstanding emerging scientist who has had their PhD conferred within the past 5 years (to be eligible the entrant must have been awarded their PhD from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, or later).

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 science research in New Zealand for at least the year following the presentation of the Prize.

The research can encompass the physical, chemical, biological, technological and social sciences, mathematics and engineering.

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.

## Selection Criteria

The selection for the Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize will be based on evidence of the following judging criteria.

The judging criteria are:

- The research is leading edge science
- The research is likely to result in the generation of valuable new knowledge
- The applicant is able to effectively communicate their research

## Entry Process

All entries must be received by **5pm (NZST), Friday 20 May 2016**.

You 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 judging 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. You must have some results, so if your research is at an early stage, please enter in a later year.
- Ensure you specifically address all three judging 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.

Download the standard Curriculum Vitae form on the website, complete and then upload.

The entry must be endorsed by two supporters: one of whom will be able to comment on your research, and the other who can comment on your ability to effectively communicate your research.

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

Your supporters will also need to send a statement setting out their professional relationship with you to demonstrate that they are able to comment on the entry. The supporters must submit the document by **5pm (NZST), Friday 20 May 2016.**

**Post or fax your signed Declaration of Assurance to:**

Secretariat  
The Prime Minister's Science Prizes  
PO Box 90-040  
Auckland 1142

Fax: (09) 360-1242

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

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.

### **Confidentiality of application material**

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.

### **Judging Panel**

An independent judging panel is selected by the Secretariat and the Prime Minister's decision to present the Prize will have regard to the advice of the Judging Panel.

It is recognised that occasionally members of the Judging 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 Judging

Panel will rule if this is significant enough for the judge 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 Judging 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.

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

#### 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.

#### Checklist

- Fully completed entry form
- Attached Research Summary (maximum 1000 words)
- Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 pages)
- Details of your two supporters
- Read and signed the Terms and Conditions of this prize.
- Signed and posted the Declaration of Assurance