

Reaxys PhD Prize

2020 FAQs

Below are some frequently asked questions about eligibility criteria, the submission process, and how applications are assessed as part of the review process. Please contact us at reaxysphdprize@elsevier.com if you require further clarification.

Eligibility queries

I got my PhD in 2019, can I apply?

You are eligible to apply if you completed your PhD after 1st January 2019

What field of chemistry research is applicable to the Reaxys PhD Prize?

All research in the chemical sciences is eligible. Applicants will be asked to identify which category in the following list is most relevant to their research:

- AI & modelling
- Analytical chemistry
- Biochemistry and biotechnology
- Computational chemistry
- Environmental chemistry
- Food chemistry
- Green and sustainable chemistry
- Inorganic chemistry
- Macromolecular chemistry
- Materials chemistry
- Medicinal chemistry
- Nuclear and radiochemistry
- Organic chemistry
- Organometallic chemistry
- Physical chemistry
- Solid state chemistry

I already applied in the past and was not selected as a finalist, can I apply again?

Yes, you can apply again.

My supervisor wants to nominate more than one person for the competition, is this possible?

Yes, each supervisor can support a maximum of two researchers from their research group. If three applications from the same supervisor are submitted, only the first two will be eligible.

Submission queries

How do I submit my application?

Click on the 'Apply Now' button on the [Reaxys PhD Prize](#) webpage. You will be re-directed to another site where you will be asked to register and create an account before you can start your application.

What type of photograph should I upload?

The photograph should be a portrait-style profile image (jpg or png, size requirements: 240 pixels width and 260 pixels height, and minimum file size 300kb). This will be added to the 2020 finalist page (see [2019 finalist page](#) as an example) and be used for marketing purposes if you are a short-listed finalist.

I've got my PhD now and in a couple of months I'm moving in a new Institution, how should I fill the 'Current institution' field in the application form?

Fill 'Current institution' with your current affiliation, but make sure that the email address you provide us will be valid until at least next October.

What should I include in my research summary statement?

Candidates should deliver a summary of their major PhD research achievement, which can be the main project from their PhD research (if their PhD topic involved multiple projects) or their overarching PhD topic (if the full PhD focused on one topic).

The file format should be PDF. It must be no more than three A4 pages long, including any illustrations and references. Font size should be 12 point on body text and 10 point on figure descriptions, line spacing should be 1.15; and paragraph spacing should be 0 before, 6 after.

The summary should contain:

- A summary of your main research finding in the form of an abstract. This should inform the reader why the project or topic is unique or important; the hypothesis or aim of the set of experiments; the methods used; the key results and conclusion. Maximum abstract length: 1 page (2,200 characters)
- Illustrations of your findings in the most appropriate form (figures, graphs, tables or text). Note that all figures should have clear descriptions.
- A short text about the impact of your findings or outlook for further research. In this text, you can include potential applications of your findings within or outside of your research area. Maximum text length, ½ page (1,100 characters)
- Key publications, including your own, if relevant

Do I need to use the template curriculum vitae?

We strongly encourage you to use the template curriculum vitae provided. This is to ensure consistency for each application and streamline the assessment process for the review committee.

How is the supervisor letter of support submitted and included in my application?

The supervisor must email the letter of support using the naming convention 'LOS_Firstname-Lastname' to phdprize-los@elsevier.com by the submission deadline on March 11 2020. The Reaxys PhD Prize team will then upload the letter of support to your application. You will receive an email notification once this step is complete.

Why is the supervisor letter of support submitted this way?

Feedback from the 2019 Reaxys PhD Prize strongly recommended that the supervisor letter of support remain confidential from the applicant. We have therefore taken these steps to respect the wishes of potential applicants and supporting supervisors.

I completed the application form on the platform, but I didn't receive any confirmation. Is my application valid?

You should receive an automatic confirmation notification. Please verify it is not in your junk folder. If you didn't receive a confirmation email, please try submitting again. If you don't receive a confirmation after a second attempt, then contact us at reaxysphdprize@elsevier.com

When will I be updated about my application?

Results will be communicated to all applicants by the end of June 2020 using the email provided in the application.

Review process and assessment criteria

How are applications short-listed?

All applications will be individually and thoroughly evaluated in several steps:

1. Completeness of application and eligibility by the PhD Prize organizing team
2. Review by senior [Reaxys Prize Club](#) members and external review by selected independent scientists in the same research area
3. Final assessment and short-listing of finalists by the [Reaxys Advisory Board](#)

What are the assessment criteria?

The following five criteria will be used and have the same weight in the evaluation.

- **Clarity of thought**
 - How well is the research presented (abstract, key discoveries, and conclusion)?
 - How comprehensively was the science investigated (scope of work)?
- **Scientific (chemical) tractability**
 - How tractable is the described science (yields, purities)?
- **Impact & importance to field of expertise**
 - What impact will the discoveries in the research described make in the future?
 - What influence will it have on the same scientific field and how will it impact other areas of research?
- **Innovation & originality**
 - How original (unique) is the described research compared to ongoing research of the same discipline?
 - How innovative is the research compared to developments in other disciplines (e.g. biological sciences, computational research)?
- **Overall impression**
 - Is the described research coherent, clear and logical?

If you have any further queries, please contact the Reaxys PhD Prize Team at reaxysphdprize@elsevier.com