

Rules for Award of the Foundation for Polish Science Prize

The purpose of the Foundation for Polish Science Prize is to honour professionally active scholars whose recognised accomplishments shift the boundaries of cognition and open new research perspectives, make an outstanding contribution to Poland's civilisational and cultural progress, and secure for Poland a significant role in meeting the most ambitious challenges of the contemporary world. The winners of the Foundation for Polish Science Prize operate following the highest standards of conduct as role models for the scientific community.

§ 1 General provisions

1. The Foundation for Polish Science Prize (the "**Prize**") is an annual individual monetary award conferred through a competition for an outstanding, precisely defined and confirmed scientific achievement which has recently opened new research perspectives.
2. The Prize is awarded in four areas:
 - a. Area I: life and earth sciences
 - b. Area II: chemical and materials sciences
 - c. Area III: mathematical, physical and engineering sciences
 - d. Area IV: humanities and social sciences.
3. In each of these areas of science, only one, individual Prize is awarded.
4. The Prize may be received only once in a given area of science.
5. Scholars can be nominated for a scientific achievement that is highly valued by the international scientific community and (at least one of the following):
 - a. was made in Poland,
 - b. was confirmed by publications affiliated with a Polish research unit, or
 - c. involved a Polish issue.
6. The Prize is awarded by the Foundation Council, which serves as the jury for the competition.

§ 2 Selection of candidates

1. The selection procedure for Prize candidates has two phases.
2. During the first phase (nomination for the Prize), candidates are nominated by eminent representatives of science invited personally by the Foundation Board and Council ("**applicants**").
3. Each applicant in a given edition of the competition may nominate only one candidate for the Prize.
4. An application for the Prize, signed by the applicant, must clearly specify the nature and significance of the achievement nominated for the Prize and identify its place of publication or presentation. The applicant should also specify one of the four areas of science in which the application should be classified.
5. The application form and list of required attachments are available on the Foundation website.
6. The applicant shall keep the fact of nomination of a candidate confidential.
7. At no stage of the procedure does the Foundation inform candidates of their nomination.

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8. When nominating candidates for the Prize, applicants should pay special attention to maintaining impartiality and avoiding conflicts of interest. Applicants may not nominate a candidate to whom they are connected by:
 - a. a direct official or legal relationship,
 - b. a family connection, or
 - c. any other relationship that could affect the objective character of the nomination.
9. Foundation employees and members of the Foundation Board and Council are ineligible to make nominations or be nominated for the Prize.
10. Self-nominations will not be considered.
11. A nomination for the Prize may be withdrawn on request of the applicant.
12. The Foundation Council will conduct a formal assessment and an initial assessment of the merit of the applications and nominate candidates for participation in the second phase of the competition.
13. In the second phase of the competition, the Foundation Board will appoint experts to confirm the quality, originality and significance of the scientific achievements of candidates who have reached the second phase of the competition.
14. Each expert will receive for evaluation only applications concerning the discipline and area of science in which he or she is a recognised specialist. In the selection of experts, preference will be given to scholars of unquestioned authority in their fields working outside of Poland.
15. The Foundation Council will appoint reviewers who are eminent scholars with high competence and knowledge in the areas of science identified in §1(2). The role of reviewers is to provide a comparative assessment, within each of the four areas of science, of the achievements of the candidates nominated for the Prize. Each of the reviewers will receive for evaluation a complete set of applications from the given area of science (together with the expert opinions) nominated for the second phase of the competition.
16. The subject of the reviewers' assessment is not the entirety of the candidate's output, but only the significance of the precisely defined achievement nominated for the Prize.
17. Reviewers in the qualification procedure shall evaluate more specifically:
 - a. the scientific value and originality of the work or achievement,
 - b. the significance of the achievement for the development of the discipline and/or civilisational development of Poland, and
 - c. the significance of the achievement for setting new scientific perspectives in recent years.
18. The Foundation makes every effort to ensure that selected experts and reviewers do not have any actual or potential conflicts of interest with candidates nominated for the Prize. Experts and reviewers are required to withdraw from participation in the competition procedure if there is a conflict of interest between them and the candidates, and more specifically if:
 - a. there is a direct official relationship between the reviewer and the nominee,
 - b. there are family connections with the nominee,
 - c. their own scientific activity had a substantive influence on development of the achievement nominated for the Prize, or
 - d. now or in the past they have had personal conflicts with the nominee.
19. Experts and reviewers are required to maintain the confidentiality of their participation in the competition procedure for the Prize.
20. The list of experts and reviewers is confidential.

§ 3 Selection of winners

1. The Foundation Council decides to award the Prize after considering the opinions of experts and reviewers.
2. The decision to award the Prize requires the unanimous decision of all the Council's members who vote.
3. The Foundation Council may elect not to award a Prize in a given calendar year in one or more areas.
4. The Foundation Council may identify candidates nominated for the second phase and not awarded the Prize in the given year who will be entitled to participate in the competition in subsequent years without being nominated again under §2(2).
5. The decisions of the Foundation Council are final and not subject to appeal.
6. The Foundation Council will determine the amount of the Prize each year at the request of the Foundation Board.

§ 4 Final provisions

1. All materials and opinions compiled during the competition procedure become the property of the Foundation and may not be disclosed to third parties.
2. Any amendment to these Rules may be made following the same procedure by which the Rules were adopted.

Foundation Board