

**School
Biology Teacher
of the Year Award**
(11–18 category)



School Biology Teacher of the Year Award (11-18 category)

This Royal Society of Biology award aims to recognise outstanding and inspirational teaching of Biology within the UK education system.

It aims to recognise the very best and most inspiring teachers and evidence provided during the application process should show how nominated teachers demonstrate the following characteristics:

- Outstanding and inspirational teaching of Biology
- Inspiring pupils beyond the classroom by supporting high quality extra-curricular learning opportunities both in and outside of the classroom setting
- Delivering inspirational INSET training for colleagues to share best practice in the teaching of Biology and spreading their enthusiasm for the subject
- Influencing the teaching and learning of Biology beyond their own institution in other schools or educational settings

The School Biology Teacher of the Year Award is open to teachers working with students aged 11-18 years old who are teaching pre-university level biology programmes of study.

The nomination procedure has two stages, an initial detailed proposal which is supported by a senior colleague and external partners. This will be shortlisted to three candidates who will be assessed in further detail. The second stage of assessment includes a school visit.

Nominations may be suggested by: teachers, their colleagues, parents of students, school governors and head teachers and nominees will typically but not exclusively have at least 5 years' experience of classroom teaching.

Completed nomination forms should be submitted **by email** to Dr Amanda Hardy amanda.hardy@rsb.org.uk by **Friday 23rd December 2016**.

The main aims of the Award are to:

- Provide national recognition and reward for excellence in teaching and supporting student learning of biology for teachers in any of the UK home nations (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales)
- Raise the status of the teaching of biology throughout UK Education
- Support individuals in reflecting upon and enhancing their professional practice to enhance student learning opportunities and experience
- Develop case studies highlighting exemplary teaching and learning and disseminate these nationally

Judging Criteria

The judges are looking for evidence of the following qualities and knowledge:

- Outstanding and inspirational teaching of Biology
- Clear evidence of value added to pupil learning
- The use of imaginative and innovative teaching methods and pedagogy
- Good behaviour and classroom management skills
- Deep and wide knowledge of Biological principles
- A clear enthusiasm for Biology
- Evidence of the contribution made by the teacher to the development of science throughout the school
- Influencing the teaching and learning of Biology beyond their own institution in other schools or educational settings
- Examples of INSET and mentoring offered to colleagues
- Leadership within the development of Science teaching
- Evidence of inspiring pupils beyond the classroom by supporting high quality extra-curricular learning opportunities in and outside of the classroom setting

The judging process and the judging panel

All applications will be collated by the Royal Society of Biology and circulated to the judging panel, who will select a shortlist of finalists.

The finalists will be informed that they have been shortlisted by **31st January 2017** and asked to submit a short case study including information on their teaching methodology/practice, the rationale, and evidence of their success by **7th March 2017**. The case study should identify a teaching methodology or element of practice which has been proven to enhance their students' learning experience and addresses one or more of the above criteria. Finalists will also be invited to provide a short (c. 10 minute) audio or video podcast for the judging panel in which they can discuss their case study, and general teaching practices, further. The finalist's case studies will be made publically available on the Society's website following the announcement of the winner.

The final stage of selection will also include a school visit and lesson observation.

The winner will be notified by the end of June 2017.