



## Best practices for awards and medals

February 2019

### Premise

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- To recognise eminent scientists for their contributions to the EGU, to geoscientific research, or to geoscience outreach; and to recognise outstanding journalists reporting on Earth, planetary or space sciences;
- To identify the awardees as role models for a young generation of scientists to foster geosciences research;
- For the awardees to act as ambassadors for the European Geosciences Union at the global scale.

Each medal bears the name of one relevant scientist who has shaped the discipline itself.

EGU awards the following awards and medals each year:

- Outstanding Early Career Scientists Award, at the division level (Division Outstanding Early Career Scientists Award) and Union level (Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Early Career Scientists).
- Division Medals to recognise outstanding achievements by active researchers.
- Union Medals to recognise lifetime achievements, or exceptional contributions to science.
- Union Service Award to recognise outstanding service and/or exceptional efforts in the promotion, growth and running of the Union.
- Katia and Maurice Krafft Award to recognise excellence in geoscience outreach and engagement.
- Angela Croome Award to recognise journalists for continued, excellent and successful reporting of Earth, space or planetary sciences.

To increase diversity in the group of EGU awardees and medallists, we encourage the EGU membership to consider gender, geographical and cultural balance when nominating outstanding Earth, planetary and space scientists at various career stages.

Each medal and award has a medal/award committee, which works under the Union Awards Committee with the exception of the Outstanding Early Career Scientists Awards. Each Medal/Award Committee consists of several persons. The Council makes all final decisions about awards and medals.

### The EGU medals and awards

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## Union medals

- [Alexander von Humboldt Medal](#) (Scientists who have performed research in developing regions)
- [Alfred Wegener Medal & Honorary Membership](#) (Atmospheric, hydrological or ocean sciences)
- [Arthur Holmes Medal & Honorary Membership](#) (Solid Earth geosciences)
- [Jean Dominique Cassini Medal & Honorary Membership](#) (Planetary and space sciences)

## Union awards

- [Angela Croome Award](#) (Earth, space and planetary sciences journalism)
- [Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Early Career Scientists](#) (Achievements made by early career scientists in the Earth, planetary, and space sciences)
- [Katia and Maurice Krafft Award](#) (Geoscience outreach and engagement)
- [Union Service Award](#) (Outstanding services for the Union)

## General Assembly awards

- [Outstanding Student Poster and PICO \(OSPP\) Award](#)

## Division awards

- [Division Outstanding Early Career Scientists Award](#)

## Division medals

- [Augustus Love Medal](#) (Geodynamics)
- [Benó Gutenberg Medal](#) (Seismology)
- [Christiaan Huygens Medal](#) (Geosciences Instrumentation and Data Systems)
- [David Bates Medal](#) (Planetary and Solar System Sciences)
- [Fridtjof Nansen Medal](#) (Ocean Sciences)
- [Hannes Alfvén Medal](#) (Solar-Terrestrial Sciences)
- [Hans Oeschger Medal](#) (Climate: Past, Present & Future)
- [Henry Darcy Medal](#) (Hydrological Sciences)
- [Ian McHarg Medal](#) (Earth and Space Science Informatics)
- [Jean Baptiste Lamarck Medal](#) (Stratigraphy, Sedimentology and Palaeontology)
- [John Dalton Medal](#) (Hydrological Sciences)
- [Julia and Johannes Weertman Medal](#) (Cryospheric Sciences)
- [Julius Bartels Medal](#) (Solar-Terrestrial Sciences)
- [Lewis Fry Richardson Medal](#) (Nonlinear Processes in Geosciences)
- [Louis Néel Medal](#) (Earth Magnetism & Rock Physics)
- [Milutin Milankovic Medal](#) (Climate: Past, Present & Future)

- **Petrus Peregrinus Medal** (Earth Magnetism & Rock Physics)
- **Philippe Duchaufour Medal** (Soil System Sciences)
- **Plinius Medal** (Natural Hazards)
- **Ralph Alger Bagnold Medal** (Geomorphology)
- **Robert Wilhelm Bunsen Medal** (Geochemistry, Mineralogy, Petrology & Volcanology)
- **Runcorn-Florensky Medal** (Planetary and Solar System Sciences)
- **Sergey Soloviev Medal** (Natural Hazards)
- **Stephan Mueller Medal** (Tectonics and Structural Geology)
- **Vening Meinesz Medal** (Geodesy)
- **Vilhelm Bjerknes Medal** (Atmospheric Sciences)
- **Vladimir Ivanovich Vernadsky Medal** (Biogeosciences)

## The EGU medals and awards committees

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Medal and award committees discuss and vote on the forum (if available), and otherwise by email, by keeping the Chair of the Union Awards Committee in carbon copy. The vote of the chair prevails in case of parity. Medal and award committees must prevent conflicts of interest in the selection procedure.

### Composition of the Union Awards Committee

The chair of the Union Awards Committee is appointed by the Council for a period of two years which is renewable once. Members of the Union Awards Committee are the chair, the president, vice-president, general secretary and treasurer of EGU.

### Composition of the Union medal committees

- The chair of each Union Medal committee is appointed by Council. The term is one year and can be renewed three times.
- The Council appoints a minimum of four additional members, preferably past Union or relevant division medallists, but at least one member who is not a past medallist. Members' term is one year and can be renewed three times.
- Chair of the Union Awards Committee is ex-officio Member

One member of the committee is replaced every year. The role of the chair is, among others, to bring in the knowledge of the community and maintain continuity. The role of the division representatives is to bring in their knowledge of the community, important because different communities have different cultures and different needs. The role of the chair of the Union Awards Committee is to ensure contact with the Council. This setup ensures that at least one committee member changes every year and, additionally, that all members are changed every four years. If a new medal is established, a transitional committee needs to be formed.

## Composition of the division medal committees

- Each division medal chair nomination is discussed at division meeting and appointed by the Council. Term is one year and can be renewed three times.
- Minimum three additional members, preferably past medallists but at least one member who is not a past medallist. These shall also be approved by the division meeting. Term is one year and can be renewed three times.
- Division president is ex-officio member.
- Chair of the Union Awards Committee is ex-officio member.

One member of the committee is replaced every year. The role of the chair of the medal committee and division president is, among others, to bring in their knowledge of the community. The role of the chair of the Union Awards Committee is to ensure contact with the Council. This setup ensures that at least one committee member changes every year. If a new medal is established, a transitional committee needs to be formed.

## Composition of the Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Early Career Scientists Committee

The committee is formed by the Union Awards Committee and is chaired by the chair of the Union Awards Committee.

## Composition of the Katia and Maurice Krafft Award Committee

The committee is formed by the Union Awards Committee and two additional members with recognised experience in geoscience outreach (preferably past awardees). It is chaired by the chair of the Outreach Committee and includes the chair of the Union Awards Committee as ex-officio member. Nominations for the two additional members are discussed by the Outreach Committee and appointed by the Council. Term is one year and can be renewed three times.

## Composition of the Union Service Award Committee

The committee is formed by the Union Awards Committee and is chaired by the chair of the Union Awards Committee.

## Composition of the Division Outstanding Early Career Scientists Award Committee

The committee is formed by the division president (chair) and additional members that can be nominated by the relevant division. The term is one year and can be renewed three times.

## Composition of the OSPP Award Committees

The OSPP Award Committees are nominated by the relevant division meeting. The division president is an ex-officio member. The Council nominates a Union coordinator to supervise the OSPP across the divisions.

## Composition of the Angela Croome Award Committee

The committee is formed by the Union Awards Committee and two journalists proposed by the Union Awards Committee and approved by Council. The journalists may be previous Angela Croome Award winners or winners of the EGU Science Journalism Fellowship. For the journalist members, term is one year and can be renewed three times.

## Confidentiality

Medal committees chairs and members are expected to keep strict confidentiality on the discussion that leads to the selection of the winners. The outcome of the selection by the Medal Committee is to be kept strictly confidential until Council approves the whole list of winners and the decision has been communicated to the award winner.

## Policy for conflict of interest

Award and medal committee members should declare at the beginning of the selection procedure if they had any personal and/or professional relationship with any candidate, including:

- Known family relationship as spouse, child, sibling, or parent.
- Business or professional partnership.
- Past or present association as thesis advisor or thesis student.
- Collaboration on a project, a book, article, report, or paper within the last 5 years, and 10 years if a substantial number of co-publications are involved.
- Co-editing of a journal, compendium, or conference proceedings within the last 48 months.
- Having had substantial collaboration during their professional career.
- Current employment at the same institution.
- Previous employment at the same institution within the last 12 months.
- Being considered for employment at the institution.
- Being involved in any office, governing board membership, or relevant committee chairpersonship in the same institution.
- Having received a honorarium and/or award from the same institution in the past 24 months.

It is the responsibility of the chair of the medal committees to reveal any possible conflict of interest to the chair of the Union Awards Committee.

The chair of the Union Awards Committee, after consultation with the chair of the relevant medal committee, may decide to exclude a medal committee member from the consultation if the personal and/or professional relationship with any nominee is deemed to have a potential impact on the selection of candidates.

Members of award and medal committees and the chair of the Union Awards Committee may for other reasons determine that there are potential conflicts that require elimination from service in a committee.

## Nomination procedures for Union and division awards and medals

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### Nomination guidelines

A person is eligible to receive one EGU/EUG/EGS medal only once in their lifetime except for the Union medals, which can be assigned only once to any person including previous division medal awardees. With regards to early career scientists, any person is eligible to receive one outstanding early career scientists award in their lifetime. This can be either the Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Early Career Scientists or a Division Outstanding Early Career Scientists Award.

All past EGU medallists and awardees are eligible for the Katia and Maurice Krafft Award, provided they have not previously received it. The same applies to the Union Service Award.

Moreover, the following individuals are not eligible to be candidates for medal and/or awards during their terms of service and one year after the term is finished (meaning that the nomination for these individuals cannot be accepted during their term, but can be accepted the subsequent year after the term ended):

- EGU President;
- EGU Vice-President;
- Council members (not including ex-officio members);
- Chair of the EGU committees;

Recipients of EGU (including EUG and EGS) awards, with the exception of recipients of the Katia and Maurice Krafft Award, the Union Service Award and the Angela Croome Award, cannot subsequently receive a lower level recognition from the EGU itself (e.g. a recipient of a Union medal cannot receive a division medal). It is possible to award recognition shared between individuals: in this case the relevant recognition will not subsequently be awarded for as many years as the number of recipients exceeds one. Members of the medal and award committees are not eligible for that medal / award in the two years after stepping down as committee members. Moreover, with respect to the awards and medals reserved for the early career and more recently established scientists we refer to the Union definition of [early career scientist](#).



Any person can be a candidate for only one EGU division medal and/or only one EGU Union medal each year. An early career scientist can be a candidate for the Division Outstanding Early Career Scientists Award for one division only each year.

Medal and award committee members cannot submit nominations or write support letters for the medals or awards they are serving for.

Nominations for all the medals and awards are [to be submitted online](#) by 15 June midnight (CEST) of each year (absolute deadline). Only EGU members can submit nominations for EGU medals and awards. Then, proposals will be forwarded to the chair of the relevant medal committee. Nominations for EGU medals and awards are not automatically renewed for the subsequent year. A person can receive one EGU medal or award only each year, and self-nominations are not accepted.

The [Angela Croome Award](#) for journalists is the exception: nominations by both EGU members and non-members are accepted and self-nominations are possible. Past recipients are not eligible.

Nominations should include the following items in PDF format:

For the division and Union medals

- **Nomination letter (one page).** This must clearly detail why the candidate deserves this recognition, in particular focus on the candidate's scientific contributions to the field, their importance, their impact on the discipline and their implications for the future. The new views and insights that have been stimulated by the candidate's work are particularly relevant.
- **Curriculum Vitae (two pages).** A summary of the candidate's CV, including the candidate's name, address, history of employment, degrees, research experience, honours, and service to the community.
- **Selected bibliography (two pages).** A list of selected publications by the candidate that best support the nomination. It should also state briefly the candidate's total number and types of publications and citations.
- **Supporting letters.** Between three and five letters of support (maximum one page each) should be submitted. These letters should clearly establish the nominee's recognised contribution to the field.

For the Katia and Maurice Krafft Award

- **Nomination letter (one page).** This must clearly detail why the candidate deserves this recognition, in particular focus on the candidate's contributions to geoscience outreach and engagement, their importance and their impact. The new views and insights that have been stimulated by the candidate's work are particularly relevant.
- **Curriculum Vitae (one page).** A summary of the candidate's CV, including the candidate's

name, address, outreach experience, honours, and service to society.

- **Supporting letters.** Between three and five letters of support (maximum one page each) should be submitted. These letters should clearly establish the nominee's recognised contribution to geoscience outreach and engagement.

For the Union Service Award

- **Nomination letter (one page).** This must clearly detail why the candidate deserves this recognition, in particular focus on the candidate's scientific contributions to the Union.
- **Curriculum Vitae (one page),** with particular emphasis on the candidate's activity in the Union.
- **Supporting letters.** One or two letters of support (maximum one page each). These letters should clearly establish the nominee's contribution to the Union.

For the outstanding early career scientists awards

- **Nomination letter (half page)** including the division that the candidates research is most applicable to.
- **Curriculum Vitae.** A summary of the candidate's CV (one page) including their date of birth and the date when their highest degree qualification was received.
- **Selected bibliography.** A list of selected publications by the candidate that best support the nomination (half page). It should also state briefly the candidate's total number and types of publications and citations.
- The whole nomination package for the award must not exceed two pages, otherwise the nomination will not be accepted.

For the Angela Croome Award

- **Nomination letter (one page).** This must clearly detail why the candidate deserves this recognition, in particular focus on the candidate's contributions to Earth, planetary or space science journalism, including how their work promoted discoveries relevant to Europe or European citizens. Must be written in English.
- **Curriculum Vitae (one page).** A summary, in English, of the candidate's CV, including the candidate's name, address, journalism experience and honours.
- **Samples of reporting published within the past five years.** Up to three samples of reporting that establish the nominee's excellent contributions to Earth, planetary or space science journalism. The samples may be in any language. Each submitted samples must be accompanied by a summary in English (maximum one page) providing a synthesis of the content and information to evaluate the value of the contribution.

To increase diversity in the group of EGU awardees and medallists, we encourage the EGU membership to consider gender, geographical and cultural balance when nominating outstanding Earth, planetary and space scientists at various career stages.





## Selection of candidates

Any EGU medal or award is selected through a rigorous assessment of the candidates and their merits. The EGU Council, the medal and award committee members and the Union and division officers are committed to soliciting the nomination of deserving individuals by avoiding conflicts of interest. Medals and awards may not be conferred in a given year if high-quality nominations are not received.

Candidates for the Union and division medals are evaluated by the respective Union and division medal committees (with the exception of the outstanding early career scientists awards) before final approval by the Council.

If only one nomination is received for a Union or division medal, the Union Awards Committee will assess the merits of the candidate and may seek the help of external peers to ensure that the candidate is high profile and deserving. The EGU reserves the right to not confer the medal when there is only one nomination.

The assessment made by the Union Awards Committee is approved by the Council before medals are conferred.

Candidates for the Union Service Award are evaluated by the Union Awards Committee and finally approved by the Council.

Candidates for the Katia and Maurice Krafft Award are evaluated by the Katia and Maurice Krafft Award Committee and finally approved by the Council.

Nominations for the Angela Croome Award are evaluated by the Angela Croome Award Committee and finally approved by the Council.

Candidates for the Division Outstanding Early Career Scientists Award are first evaluated by the relevant division presidents who forward the best candidate to the chair of the Union Awards Committee. Four candidates are then selected by the Council and awarded at the Union level (Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Early Career Scientists). The remaining best candidates are awarded by the relevant division.

The president will then inform the awardees and medallists appropriately and will invite them to the next EGU General Assembly, where the awards and medals will be presented. The president of the division is then asked to take all necessary actions for inviting the division medallist to give a medal lecture at the General Assembly. The EGU office, on behalf of the chair of the EGU Outreach Committee and the EGU president, is asked to take actions for inviting the winners of the EGU Katia and Maurice Krafft Award and the Angela Croome Award to give an award lecture at the General Assembly.

In parallel, the Programme Committee of the next EGU General Assembly incorporates the corresponding potential medal/award lectures into the overall programme of the meeting, either

as stand-alone talks or as invited contributions in selected sessions.

The Union awards and medals are presented by the president during the EGU Award Ceremony at the General Assembly, while the division medals are presented by the respective division presidents at the beginning of the award and medal lectures in question. The division medallists are introduced during the Award Ceremony.

## Time schedule the Union and division awards and medals

**1 January – 15 June** Open for submissions

Survey of all suggestions by the respective award and medal committees. With respect to the Division Outstanding Early Career Scientists Award /

**15 June – 31 August**

Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Early Career Scientists, the presidents of the divisions will evaluate their proposals between 15 June–30 June midnight (CEST), while the Council will select max. four candidates from all suggested by the Divisions.

**1 – 30 September**

Peer assessment of the nominated candidates by the Union Awards Committee.

**October**

Final approval of the candidates by the Union Council at its fall meeting.

**October/November**

Awardees and medallists are informed that they will receive their award/medal at the next General Assembly of the Union.

## Nomination procedures for General Assembly awards

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In relation with its General Assemblies, the Union presents a number of special awards, such as the Outstanding Student Poster and PICO (OSPP) Awards to further improve the overall quality of poster and PICO presentations and most importantly, to foster the excitement of younger colleagues in presenting their work in form of a poster and/or PICO.

### Criteria for application

Eligible for the Outstanding Student Poster and PICO (OSPP) Awards are students who:

1. are first author and personally present the poster or PICO at the conference;
2. satisfy one of the following criteria:
  - are a current undergraduate (e.g., BSc) or postgraduate (e.g., MSc, PhD) student;
  - are a recent undergraduate or postgraduate student (conferral of degree after 1 January of the year preceding the conference) who are presenting their thesis work.

Please note that each first author can register only **one** abstract (poster or PICO) for the OSPP contest at the General Assembly.

## Procedure of application

Authors may express their interest in participating in the OSPP contest when submitting their abstract. With the letter of schedule, authors are informed about the final form of their presentation: oral, poster or PICO. In case of poster or PICO, students fulfilling the above criteria can register for OSPP by selecting the respective link in the letter of schedule. In case of more than one poster and/or PICO presentation as a first author, students are asked to decide which presentation should participate in the OSPP contest. The student names are then forwarded to the OSPP coordinators of the respective programme group. Authors receive a confirmation email after the OSPP registration deadline (which is about two weeks after the letter of schedule).

## Procedure of selection

If you participate in OSPP, please attach the OSPP label ([blue SVG](#), [blue PNG](#), [yellow SVG](#), [yellow PNG](#)) to your poster board. Alternatively, you might include the label in the poster itself. If you participate with a PICO, you are kindly asked to add the OSPP label to your PICO presentation header.

The OSPP coordinator of each programme group sends out emails to all (co-)conveners with the list of OSPP abstracts to be judged in their session and asking them to nominate three judges for each presentation before the meeting. The (co-)conveners obtain prior consent from the judges and may choose to do part of the judging themselves. To avoid conflicts of interest, judges should not be involved in the work or supervision of the student. The OSPP coordinator checks before the meeting that enough judges have been assigned to each participating poster or PICO presentation and may nominate additional judges if necessary.

Evaluation forms for each OSPP presentation will then be made available to all judges via a personal link to the OSPP online system. These forms include a number of criteria to be evaluated by the judges. Criteria include the scientific quality of the presentation, the design, and the student's ability to answer questions, with marks given from 0 to 10.

The judges evaluate the presentations at the General Assembly during the poster session or the PICO viewing time, respectively. Note, that the two-minute presentation of PICOs is not part of the award evaluation. Each judge is expected to speak to the student during the poster/PICO session because this guarantees some extra attendance for the student, and because the student's ability to describe and defend their work is part of the OSPP evaluation criteria. The judges are asked to work confidentially. The judges then fill in the evaluation forms online.

After the General Assembly, the OSPP programme group coordinator proposes a ranking among all the participating posters and PICOs (one combined list) in the programme group based on average marks that are automatically compiled from all evaluation forms. The top presentations of this ranking will get the award. The number of awards in each programme group should depend on the quality and the number of participating presentations in that year. In general, the



number of awards should be small to keep the contest competitive and the award a special distinction. The programme group chair / division president ultimately decides on the awards based on the ranking, **no later than two months after the General Assembly**.

More information for coordinators, nominators and judges is available at the [OSPP guidelines page](#) of the General Assembly.

### Award presentation

Each awardee is notified by the EGU OSPP coordinator. Awardees are asked to submit a short statement on affiliation and research interests (two to three sentences), a portrait photo and their PICO presentation or a PDF of their poster to the [EGU Executive Office](#). The information is published on the EGU OSPP award website. The awardees receive a conference fee waiver for the next EGU General Assembly and are invited to submit a paper (where the awardee is first author) free of publication costs to one of the [EGU journals](#). At the respective division meeting held at the next General Assembly, each awardee receives an award certificate.