

Frequently Asked Questions
The 2014 Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists
National Faculty Competition



Blavatnik Awards *for* Young Scientists

1. What is the national faculty competition of the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists?

Effective 2014, the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists will be open to all US-based faculty scientists, age 42 or younger. The expanded national faculty competition is comprised of three disciplinary categories: Life Sciences; Physical Sciences & Engineering; and Chemistry. Every year, one winner in each category will be awarded \$250,000 in unrestricted funds. The Blavatnik Awards program was designed to provide young, extraordinary scientists with the funding and recognition necessary to carry out the scientific work essential to address society's current and future challenges.

2. What is the difference between the national faculty competition and the regional postdoctoral competition?

The national faculty competition of the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists is for US-based, faculty-rank scientists age 42 or younger. The program is comprised of three disciplinary categories: Life Sciences; Physical Sciences & Engineering; and Chemistry. To view the list of eligible disciplines please click [here](#). Every year, one winner in each category will be awarded \$250,000 in unrestricted funds.

The regional postdoctoral competition of the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists is for postdoctoral-rank scientists age 42 or younger from institutions in New York, New Jersey, and/or Connecticut. Winners each receive \$30,000 in unrestricted funds. Finalists in the postdoctoral category each receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds.

3. What qualities are the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists evaluating when selecting its winners?

Winners will be selected based on the *quality*, *impact*, and *novelty* of their research.

Quality: The extent to which the work is reliable, valid, credible, and scientifically rigorous.

Impact: The extent to which the work addresses an important problem and is influential in the candidate's field.

Novelty: The extent to which the work challenges existing paradigms, employs new methodologies or concepts, and/or pursues an original question.

4. Which institutions are eligible to nominate candidates for the national faculty competition of the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists?

The list of eligible institutions is composed of approximately 300 US-based institutions, including degree-granting universities, private research institutes, academic medical centers,

and national government laboratories. The list was derived from the following pre-existing classifications:

The [Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education](#):

[RU/VH: Research Universities \(very high research activity\)](#)

[RU/H: Research Universities \(high research activity\)](#)

[Howard Hughes Medical Institute's General Investigator Competition's List of Eligible Institutions \(PDF\)](#)

[United States Department of Energy National Laboratories](#)

5. My institution is not included in the list of eligible institutions, what are the next steps?

If your institution is not included in the list of eligible institutions and is interested in nominating a candidate, the President or Provost (or their official designee) of the institution should email the Blavatnik Awards staff at awards@nyas.org with a brief statement of interest.

6. May institutions submit more than one nomination per category?

Each institution may nominate up to three candidates per year, one for each of the three categories.

7. Where can the online national faculty competition nomination portal be found?

The nomination portal and guidelines for the 2014 national faculty competition will be available on the Blavatnik Awards website during the nomination period: September 16- November 22, 2013.

8. What are the procedures to nominate a candidate?

Each eligible institution may nominate one faculty candidate per each of the three disciplinary categories: Life Sciences; Physical Sciences & Engineering; and Chemistry. All nominations must be submitted online by either the President or Provost (or their official designee) of the host institution. The nomination portal and guidelines for the 2014 national faculty competition will be available on the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists website starting September 16, 2013.

9. Are Research Scientists, Research Associates, or Resident Fellows eligible for the national faculty competition?

No. Research Scientists, Research Associates, and Resident Fellows are not eligible for the national faculty competition. However, Research Scientists, Research Associates, and Resident Fellows working in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut are eligible for the regional postdoctoral competition.

10. If a regional postdoctoral scientist is transitioning into a faculty position, should he/she seek nomination to the national faculty competition?

Candidates should be nominated to the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists competition that corresponds to their position at the time of nomination. If a Candidate begins a faculty position after the November 22nd nomination deadline, the Candidate is not eligible for the national faculty competition.

11. If a Candidate is being nominated for the national faculty competition, is it possible for his/her postdoctoral researcher to be considered for the regional postdoctoral competition the same year?

Yes. The national faculty and regional postdoctoral competitions are separate. National faculty candidates only compete against other national faculty candidates, and regional postdoctoral candidates only compete against other regional postdoctoral candidates.

12. What happens once all of my nomination materials are received?

Candidates and Nominators will receive an on-screen confirmation notice and email after submitting the nomination form and entering the Recommender information. At this point, the Candidate should stay in close communication with his/her Recommenders until all letters of recommendation have been submitted. The Recommender will receive an on-screen confirmation notice once letters have been submitted via the online system. Nominators may view the status of the letters of recommendation at any time.

13. Will evaluations from the judges be made available for the Candidates or Nominators?

No. All evaluations for the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists competition are kept strictly confidential.

14. May Candidates view the letters of recommendation written in support of their nomination?

No. All information submitted on the Candidate's behalf is kept strictly confidential.

15. Who should write a Candidate's letters of recommendation?

Recommenders should be people with whom the Candidate has worked closely with over their career, including department chairs, research advisors, current or past colleagues, or affiliated mentors.

16. May Candidates submit more than two recommendation letters?

No. The online system will only accept two letters of recommendation.

17. How will a Candidate know if letters of recommendation have been received?

The Candidate should stay in close communication with his/her Recommenders until both letters of recommendation have been submitted. The Recommender will upload the letter of recommendation via the online system and receive an on-screen confirmation notice. Nominators may view the status of the letters of recommendation at any time.

18. May a Candidate send a bibliography of four selected publications and/or patents?

No. Candidates must submit full-text PDF versions of up to four of their publications/patents.

19. Who are the judges for the national faculty competition of the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists?

The judging panel for the national faculty competition is comprised of some of the nation's most distinguished scientists and engineers. To view the list of confirmed judges for the 2014 Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists program, please click [here](#).

20. Who are the members of the Scientific Advisory Council?

The Scientific Advisory Council is comprised of renowned scientists, Nobel laureates, and past Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientist winners, each known for their innovative thinking. To view the list of Scientific Advisory Council members, please click [here](#).

21. A potential candidate was born slightly before the cut-off date for eligibility; may he or she still be nominated through a special exception?

No. Only nominations from individuals born on or after January 1st, 1972 for the 2014 national faculty competition will be accepted.

22. Do the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists have quotas for a particular region or institution?

No. The Awards seek to identify individuals with unique achievements and talents and do not have quotas for any particular population. Within each discipline, candidates are compared to all other candidates, between and across all institutions.

23. Who is Len Blavatnik?

Len Blavatnik is an American industrialist, business leader, and philanthropist. He is the founder and chairman of Access Industries, a privately-held U.S. industrial group, and head of the Blavatnik Family Foundation. For more details on Len Blavatnik or Access Industries please click [here](#).

24. Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact the Blavatnik Awards staff at awards@nyas.org or 212.298.8624.