

## ANNOUNCEMENT & COMPETITION RULES

# ANNUAL PhD THESIS AWARD COMPETITION

A £1,000 cash prize to be presented by The Royal Society of Chemistry Energy Sector for the best PhD thesis awarded annually in the field of Chemistry for the Energy Sector

**Submission deadline for the 2023 prize is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024**

### COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must:

- Have been examined and notified of award of PhD from a recognised UK or Republic of Ireland University in the previous academic year.
- Submit a summary of their PhD Thesis (1000 words max) to The Secretary of the RSC Energy Sector by the competition deadline, highlighting the relevance and impact of the work to the Energy Sector and the RSC's commitment to tackling global challenges.
- Submit a letter from their PhD supervisor recommending the candidate for consideration and confirming the candidate meets eligibility criteria by the competition deadline.

### ELIGIBILITY

This is an annual award, open to all candidates that have been awarded (but not necessarily graduated) a PhD from a UK or Republic of Ireland University within the previous calendar year. Their PhD thesis should be original work predominantly in the field of chemistry that must have application in the Energy Sector.

### ADJUDICATION

The RSC Energy Sector Executive Committee decides the winner based on a recommendation by the Annual PhD Award Sub-Committee and the decision cannot be challenged.

### AWARD

The award winner will be notified on by December 2024. The winner may be asked participate in advertisement of the award on social media and be invited to make a presentation at a suitable RSC event.

## RULES OF THE COMPETITION

1. Candidates must have been examined and notified of award of PhD (but not necessarily graduated) from a recognised UK or Republic of Ireland University in the previous academic year.
2. The candidate's PhD thesis should be original work predominantly in the field of chemistry that must have application in the Energy Sector.
3. Candidates must submit an application via email to The Secretary of the RSC Energy Sector by the deadline of the competition (1<sup>st</sup> September 2024). The application must contain:
  - 3.1 - A pro forma application; available from the RSC Energy Sector group web page [www.rsc.org/energysector](http://www.rsc.org/energysector)
  - 3.2 - Executive Summary of their PhD thesis highlighting the relevance of the work to the Energy Sector and the RSC's commitment to *tackling global challenges*<sup>1</sup> of approximately 1,000 words. If requested, short-listed candidates may be required to submit an electronic copy<sup>2</sup> of their PhD thesis. The Executive Summary should make clear how their thesis contributes to a genuine need of the Energy Sector and explain the environmental, economic and social benefits of the work. Candidates should note that the content of their Executive Summary will be the primary source of the judges' consideration. The Executive Summary is not the abstract of the thesis. It is a document for the scientifically literate non-specialist.
  - 3.3 - A letter from their main PhD supervisor recommending the candidate for consideration for this award and confirming that the candidate meets the criteria for eligibility for the competition.

## ADJUDICATION

The purpose of the annual award is to spotlight PhD research in the energy sector in the UK and Republic of Ireland. An annual PhD Award Sub-Committee, formed from RSC Energy Sector Executive Committee and co-opted experts, will assess the application and recommend the award winner to the Executive Committee for approval. The sub-committee may seek the advice of other professionals (academics, industrialists, RSC advisors/subject champions) to assess the merits of an application. Second and third prizes may be awarded subject to the quality of submissions.

The Annual PhD Award Sub-Committee will base their assessment on the criteria below, primarily from information provided in the candidate's Executive Summary. All five aspects carry equal weight in the scoring process so failure to address anyone will significantly restrict the candidates' potential score.

The judging criteria will be based on the following as articulated in the candidates' 1000-word summary:

1. The level to which the work (thesis) addresses a clear identified need in global energy requirements that may include energy security, efficiency, cost, storage and provision to isolated communities some of which are described in the RSC's commitment to *tackling global challenges*<sup>1</sup>.
2. The degree to which the work contributes significant new understanding to an aspect of the energy sector.
3. The presentation of the underlying chemistry on which the work is based.
4. The level to which, assuming commercially implemented, the work could quantifiably impact environmentally sustainable energy provision (CO<sub>2</sub> reduction or abatement, reduction in toxic emissions, *etc.*).
5. The dissemination of the results and engagement with the wider community.

For further enquiries contact The Energy Sector Secretary at [rscenergysector@gmail.com](mailto:rscenergysector@gmail.com)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rsc.org/campaigning-outreach/global-challenges>

<sup>2</sup> Details of how to submit electronic copy of thesis will be provided as required