

## EuChemS Young Chemists' Award (EYCA)

### Aim with introduction

The aim of the EuChemS Young Chemist' Award (EYCA) is to showcase and recognise the excellent research being carried out by young scientists working in the chemical sciences. In particular the Award is intended to honor and encourage younger chemists whose current research displays a high level of excellence and distinction. It seeks to recognise and reward younger chemists of exceptional ability who show promise for substantial future achievements in chemistry-related research fields.

The Award was established in 2006 at the first European EuChemS Chemistry Congress as an initiative of the Italian Chemical Society (SCI) and recognised by EuChemS since then.

### Who is eligible for a nomination

The EYCA Prizes are generally given for two levels of career:

- the PhD level: all the current PhD students and the young chemists who obtained the PhD within one year before the EYCA competition/European EuChemS Chemistry Congress, and
- the Early-career Researcher (ECR) level (not more than 8 years of experience since completion of the Doctoral Degree).

### Who can submit a nomination

For the EYCA, only self-nominations are allowed. However, one candidate can send only one application for a certain EYCA edition.

### How to apply

The EYCA call is provided on the EuChemS website and further promoted on other relevant websites (e.g. the official European EuChemS Chemistry Congress and the EYCN website) and on related social media. The EYCA call provides the formats, the rules, regulations and the deadline for the application. Applications has to be presented following the instructions of the EYCA call.

Applicants can submit only one application for each EYCA edition. The online application form is set up by the EuChemS Secretariat. All applications must be done online.

For the applications the following items are at least required:

- 1) A filled in application form where the applicant has to indicate his/her level of career (PhD or ECR).
- 2) One copy of an abstract authored or co-authored by the applicant and submitted to the European EuChemS Chemistry Congress. Only abstracts that have been accepted for a Symposium of the Congress are considered for the Award.
- 3) A description of the research featured in the abstract in which the following points are specified:
  - The aim of the work and the state of the art.
  - The originality of the work and the specific contribution of the applicant.
  - Significant results and future directions.
- 4) One or a maximum of two support letters provided from the applicant thesis advisor or other respected scientists.
- 5) A brief *Curriculum Vitae* (max one page).
- 6) A document that certifies the attainment of the doctorate or the status of a doctoral student (important: for the PhD certificates, the date of dissertation defence must be present).

### Selection process

The complete and correct submissions will be reviewed by the European Award Committee (EYCAC, see below). On the basis of their evaluation, up to six candidates will be selected in each category, therefore allowing up to 12 shortlisted candidates as EYCA finalists to be selected. Finalists will be notified approximately

four weeks before the EuChemS Congress. They will also be requested to submit a head/shoulders photograph for displaying at the Congress. The finalists will be invited to deliver a talk on their research at the EYCA Competition Session at the EYCN Symposium during the EuChemS Chemistry Congress. The talk should focus on the topic presented in the abstract of the candidate; however, it may include updates of his/her research.

On the basis of these talks and of the documents presented in the application, a Jury will then select the Award winners.

For each level, one Gold and one Silver Medal are awarded. The Jury may also assign special mentions to the finalists. The decision of the Jury is final.

The selection process will look in particular for evidence of:

- Excellence in chemistry and related fields
- Originality and independent contribution
- Thoroughness and a depth of understanding of the research area
- Awareness of the future perspectives of their research.

All above criteria have equal weight.

#### European Award Committee for the EuChemS-EYCN Award (EYCAC)

1. The European Award Committee (EYCAC) is composed of maximum five (5) members including the chairperson.
2. The EuChemS Executive Board selects members of the EYCAC from nominated representatives of the funding societies, the EYCN and other stakeholders.  
Funding societies have maximum two representatives on EYCAC.  
One member of the Jury is nominated by the EYCN, on condition that this person is not a current EYCN delegate.
3. Representative of the main sponsor of the EYCA is the Chair of the Jury.
4. In appointing the EYCAC the Executive Board is aiming at diversity in terms of gender, location, fields of chemistry, *etc.*
5. Members of the EYCAC serve a 5-years term.
6. The EYCAC Chair is the contact person for the EuChemS Executive Board.
7. EYCAC reviews the nominations, ranks the nominees and reports to the EuChemS Executive Board.
8. EuChemS Executive Board elects finalists based on the recommendation of the EYCAC.
9. Typically, the Chair of the EYCAC will present the Award and the laudation during the EYCA Ceremony at the Closing session of the EuChemS Congress, together with the EuChemS President.

#### **Awarding ceremony**

EYCA is given every two years during the EuChemS Congress under the patronage of EuChemS and the EYCN. In addition to the medals, each winner will receive a certificate and an amount of money, which is quantified by the EuChemS-EYCA organisers in the EuChemS-EYCA call according to the budget.

EYCA is sponsored by the Società Chimica Italiana (SCI). Additionally, on each occasion, other EuChemS Member Societies and other stakeholders are invited to financially contribute to the prize. For every edition, the whole budget is set up and coordinated by the EuChemS Secretariat. If any money is left from a certain edition, it is used for the next one. If there is a gap in funding, EuChemS contributes up to 1/3 of the total budget.

For the EYCA organisation (website, contacts, dissemination, secretary) the EYCAC chair is assisted by the EuChemS Secretariat.

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*approved by the Executive Board (2102/10), February 2021.*

*approved by the Executive Board (2002/11), February 2020.*