

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 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 one year before the deadline for submitting nominations for the EYCA competition, and
- the Early-Career Researcher (ECR) level (not more than 8 years of experience since completion of the Doctoral Degree at the time of submission of the nomination).

Nominees must be working in a country with a EuChemS Member Organisation at the time of the nomination.

Who can submit a nomination

Only self-nominations are allowed.

One candidate can send only one application for a certain EYCA edition.

How to apply

Nominations for EYCA are open *via* the online nomination system.

The online nomination form requests at least the following information:

- an abstract authored or co-authored by the applicant and submitted to the EuChemS Chemistry Congress. Only abstracts that have been accepted oral contributions are considered for the EYCA award.
- 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
- a brief Curriculum Vitae (max one page)
- 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 given)
- a declaration on no misconduct.

Support letters may also be added, but are not compulsory. If support letter(s) are added, then they should come from the applicant thesis advisor or other respected scientists that are not working at the same institution as the candidate.

Selection process

1. The European Award Committee (EYCAC) reviews and evaluates complete and eligible submissions.
2. The evaluation focuses 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.

3. On the basis of their evaluation, up to six candidates are selected in each category, therefore allowing up to 12 shortlisted candidates as EYCA finalists to be selected.
4. Finalists are notified approximately four weeks before the EuChemS Chemistry Congress.
5. They are requested to submit a head/shoulders photograph for displaying at the EuChemS Chemistry Congress and for online communication related to the EYCA.
6. The finalists are 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.
7. The Jury evaluates their presentations at the EuChemS Chemistry Congress.
8. On the basis of these talks (quality of presentation) and of the documents presented in the application, a Jury then selects the Award winners. The decision of the Jury is final.
9. For each level, one Gold and one Silver Medal are awarded. The Jury may also assign special mentions to the finalists.

The EuChemS Secretariat coordinates and supports the evaluation process.

European Award Committee for the EYCA Award (EYCAC)

1. The European Award Committee (EYCAC) is composed of five (5) members including the chairperson.
2. The EuChemS Executive Board selects members of the EYCAC from nominated representatives of the funding Member Organisations, 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 edition 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 can serve for two terms of four years, following an invitation of the Executive Board.
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 is informed about the finalists as decided by the EYCAC.
9. The Chair of the EYCAC presents the Award and the laudation during the Closing session of the EuChemS Chemistry Congress, together with the EuChemS President.

Awarding ceremony

EYCA is given every two years during the EuChemS Chemistry Congress under the patronage of EuChemS and the EYCN.

In addition to the medals, each winner receives a certificate and an amount of money, which is decided by the EuChemS Executive Board.

All finalists receive a certificate.

The main sponsor of EYCA is the Società Chimica Italiana (SCI). Additionally, for each EYCA edition, other EuChemS Member Societies and stakeholders are invited to financially contribute to the award. 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 conducting the EYCA ceremony the EYCAC Chair is assisted by the EuChemS Secretariat.

*approved by the Executive Board 2402/19, February 2024.
approved by the Executive Board (2202/08), February 2022.
approved by the Executive Board (2102/10), February 2021.
approved by the Executive Board (2002/11), February 2020.*