

Philip Leverhulme Prizes Guidance for Nominees 2026

Aim

- Philip Leverhulme Prizes are designed to recognise and facilitate the work of outstanding research scholars of proven achievement, who have made and are continuing to make original and significant contributions to knowledge in their particular field.
- Up to thirty Prizes will be awarded in 2026, across the following subject areas: Biological Sciences, History, Law, Mathematics and Statistics, Philosophy and Theology and Sociology and Social Policy.
- It is expected that Prize Winners will have influenced their field sufficiently to have had an international impact.
- The subject areas selected are intentionally broad, and nominations will be considered irrespective of a nominee's departmental affiliation.
- Please note that, between 2026 and 2028, an individual may only be nominated for one of the 18 subject areas in which the Trust is offering Prizes during those three years.

Prizes

Each Prize has a value of £100,000. This is paid in two equal instalments to the Prize Winner's employing institution.

Eligibility of the nominee

- Nominees must hold either a permanent post or a long-term Fellowship in a UK university with research degree awarding powers that would extend beyond the duration of the Philip Leverhulme Prize. Those otherwise without salary are not eligible to be nominated. Nominees should normally have been awarded their doctoral degree not more than ten years prior to the closing date of 14 May 2026. The award date is considered to be the date shown on the degree certificate. However, nominations are accepted for those who do not meet this requirement if they have had a distinct career break. Please note that only career breaks taken for maternity or paternity leave, caring responsibilities, or illness are considered eligible under this funding scheme.
- Prizes are awarded to individuals. The Trust Board will not consider making an award where two (or more) nominations are received for substantially the same body of work.

- For nominees in the **Biological Sciences** subject area:
 - Nominees are also asked to pay attention to their eligibility in terms of the remit of the Trust, which does not support research in the medical and clinical sciences. We offer guidance on this here: <https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/research-we-do-not-fund>
 - Nominees should be aware that greater weight is placed on the assessment of past achievement and future potential than on the plans for how the prize funds will be used. So, if your work has had a strong focus on those areas of medical or clinical research that are outside the Trust remit, your application will not be eligible for consideration, even if your plans for use of the award monies are framed around more fundamental biological research.
- We strongly recommend nominees whose eligibility might be considered borderline contact the Trust at an early stage and so avoid wasting time developing an application that cannot be considered.

Use of a prize

The prize funds may be used for any purpose related to the advancement of the research of the Prize Winner, provided that the items of expenditure fall within the categories classically eligible for the support of the Trust. Examples include research assistance, teaching replacement, travel and subsistence, consumables (including specialist books, databases and similar materials), technical support, or computing and software. The principal ineligible items are sites, buildings or other capital expenditure, augmentation of the Prize holder's salary, and institutional overheads.

Nominations

Nominations are to be made by the nominee's head of department (or equivalent). No institution may submit more than three nominations in any prize subject.

Timing

The closing date for the receipt of nominations is 4pm on **Wednesday 14 May 2026**. Decisions will be made by the Trust Board by the end of November 2026. Prizes can be taken up on the first of a month between 1 December 2026 and 1 November 2027.

Nomination procedure

- Nominations can only be made via the Trust's Grants Management System.
- Nominations must be approved and submitted to the Trust by the nominee's institution by 4pm on 14 May 2026. Institutional approval is required both from the head of department and from an administrative officer on behalf of the institution. **Please note that a letter of nomination from the Head of Department is no longer required.**
- Nominated referees will also be required to provide their references via the online system by 1 June 2026.
- Nominees will be informed of the result of their nominations by the end of November 2026.

Further information

Please call 020 7042 9862 or email Bridget McGeoghegan to grants@leverhulme.ac.uk