

Chemical Landmarks application guidance

We welcome interesting and viable proposals for new Chemical Landmarks – awarded as blue plaques – that celebrate the diverse people, teams, collaborations and organisations who are helping to make the world a better place through the chemical sciences.

To find out more information about our Chemical Landmarks, [visit our website](#).

Questions to explore before applying

Is this a novel plaque?

We will only award one blue plaque for any individual person, team, building, innovation or discovery. Please check our existing plaques on our website to ensure your proposal has not already been commemorated.

Who are my stakeholders?

Think about who your local stakeholders are and initiate some conversations. Your stakeholders might be local schools, community groups, parks, libraries, museums, universities or the council. Is there already a local plaque scheme in place? If so, would this plaque connect with it? We recommend that you liaise with your [Royal Society of Chemistry local section](#) who could support you in your application.

What permissions do I need and how do I get them?

Think about where you would site the final plaque. You may have more than one option. A key criterion for the RSC is that it is **displayed outside in an accessible and publicly visible location**. You must ascertain who the authority is for your requested location and ensure that you can get permission. Any successful plaque award is conditional on gaining the permission of the freeholder for the installation. Check if the building is listed. **Is planning permission required?** If so, liaise with the relevant planning team to get advice on whether a plaque could be installed and what you need to do to start the process for gaining planning consent.

Does my proposal meet the eligibility criteria?

- Sites receiving a plaque can be established to mark a person, team organisation, collaboration, building, process, discovery, innovation or breakthrough.
- The award should be for a person, team organisation, collaboration, building, process, discovery, innovation or breakthrough that has brought significant positive impacts for local, regional, national or global society.
- The nomination should celebrate diversity in the chemical sciences.
- For UK applications, the site for the plaque must be in the UK or Republic of Ireland and should celebrate or commemorate people or work based in the UK or Republic of Ireland.
 - The site for the plaque must be in an accessible and publicly visible space.
 - International applications can be considered when made through a sister society or a Royal Society International Local Section. Please contact us before making an international application: outreach@rsc.org



Making your application

Please use the [online application form](#) when you are ready to apply. In your application, please tell us how your proposed plaque fits with the eligibility criteria. Tell us about:

The visibility of the site for the plaque

Where do you want to locate it and why? Who will be able to see it? How will you ensure it can be viewed by the public?

Its connection to the RSC's purpose and mission

How does the plaque relate to our mission to help the chemical science community make the world a better place?

The nature of the diversity being celebrated

Would the plaque commemorate an individual or a team and why? Would it celebrate people working in different roles and at different levels in their career? Would it help shine a light on diverse people and roles in the chemistry community?

The impact on science and society

Is the plaque commemorating local, regional, national or global impact? What is the nature of that impact?

Its capacity to engage the local and/or wider community

Alongside the plaque itself, successful applications can receive a grant of up to £2000 to support celebration of the award with and by the local community. We want to hear how you plan to engage your community stakeholders. Tell us about any celebration event you would hold. Think about ways that you could involve diverse groups of people in fun, creative, participatory activities that could bring the story behind the plaque to life. Will you involve local media, schools, families, community groups, shops, libraries or heritage organisations? In what way? Will the plaque connect with any existing local scheme, event, festival or trail?

Speak to us

We welcome informal discussions from people or teams interested in making an application for a new plaque. If you wish to talk with us about your proposal before applying, please send us brief outline of your nomination. Tell us what it means to the local area and the ways in which it promotes diversity in the chemical sciences. Please email outreach@rsc.org and someone from our team will get back to you.

