

Rutherford Plasma Physics Communication Prize

Submission Guidelines

The Prize

The “Rutherford Plasma Physics Communication Prize” is awarded for the best “communication activity” carried out by a student who is studying for a PhD in plasma physics and who has submitted this to the Prize panel for consideration. The Prize is awarded at the IoP Plasma Physics Conference after the deadline for submissions, and is worth £500.

By “communication activity” we mean, but do not restrict ourselves to, the following:

- A talk or lecture
- A website
- A podcast
- A video
- An essay
- A letter or article (e.g. to a magazine or newspaper)

Criteria:

The judges are looking for a submission which shows clear, effective, and accurate communication of plasma physics. This should also generate significant interest and enthusiasm in the target audience.

Submissions must meet basic standards for consideration:

- They cannot be theses, papers for scientific journals, or transfer reports.
- They must target an audience of more than 20 people outside of your immediate research group.
- They must be of a high standard.
- They cannot be offensive in any way.
- You must allow the submission to be retained in a publically accessible web-archive.

The judges are asked to look at the following aspects of any suitable submission:

- **Presentation** : Was the activity executed in a smooth and professional fashion?
- **Scientific Accuracy** : Was all the information imparted in the activity scientifically accurate?

- **Impact** : Did the activity generate interest and enthusiasm in the target audience?
- **Awareness** : Did the activity show awareness of the nature of its target audience and tailoring of the activity accordingly?
- **Media Skills** : Has the activity used the chosen medium in the best way?
- **Innovation** : Has something daring and new been done?

The novelty and intricacy of the science is *not* being judged, and thus communication of cutting-edge research does not earn extra credit in comparison to communication of well-established knowledge.

Any target audience may be chosen, however it should be substantial in number (more than 20 people). It is expected that submissions take account of their target audience.

How to make a Submission

Submissions should ideally be done by either web-submission or by email (see Contact details). If the candidates wish to send hard-copies then a postal address is also supplied.

A submission should consist of the following:

- ½ page of A4 which states the candidates details (name, institution, supervisor, year of PhD) and gives a brief summary of the communication activity. A contact email address must be supplied.
- One main electronic file that is the main recording of the activity.
- Any necessary supplementary information in electronic format.

For activities that are written in nature (letters and articles for magazines, essays, etc.) we ask that submissions are either in Microsoft Word or PDF format. For activities that are aural in nature (e.g. podcasts) then the submission should be in mp3 format. For visual activities either an appropriate “still” format, e.g. ppt or pdf for a poster, or “motion” format is required. For videos the preferred formats are AVI and MPEG.

Please note that *live performances*, e.g. talks and lectures, require a video recording of the actual event (also supplied in AVI or MPEG format). This should be supplemented by written feedback (no more than ½ page of A4) from two members of the audience.

Decision

All candidates will be informed of the judge’s decision by email at the same time. This will probably be no more than 2-3 months after the submission deadline. The winner will be asked to accept the Prize at the next IoP Plasma Physics conference.

Retention of Submissions

The CLF would like to retain all submissions (whether they win the Prize or not) on a web-archive that will be accessible to the general public. Those candidates who do **not** grant permission for this should indicate this as part of their submission.

Contact

For email contact regarding the Prize please email Alex Robinson : alex.robinson@stfc.ac.uk

Postal Address : Alex Robinson, 2.64 R1, Central Laser Facility, Rutherford-Appleton Lab., STFC, HSIC, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0QX