

**Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize and Oration
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

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Introduction

The Submission Guidelines Document for the Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize and Oration serves as a clear and comprehensive resource to support applicants in understanding the expectations, requirements, and processes associated with their submission.

It outlines key eligibility criteria, application components and formatting standards to ensure a consistent and fair assessment process. This document is intended to promote transparency, encourage high-quality submissions and uphold the integrity and purpose of the Prize.

Purpose

The Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize is a prestigious award that aims to recognise and celebrate outstanding women in science and medicine who embody the core pillars of *Innovation*, *Impact* and *Leadership*. It aims to highlight groundbreaking scientific research that demonstrates originality and advances knowledge through creative approaches and novel solutions.

The Prize also aims to honour contributions that have a measurable impact on healthcare – improving patient outcomes, shaping public health policies or transforming clinical practices. It also seeks to acknowledge exceptional leadership and community engagement, particularly in fostering collaboration, mentoring future leaders and empowering young women in science and medicine. Through these pillars, the Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize seeks to inspire a lasting legacy of excellence and transformation in health research and beyond.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize, applicants must meet all of the following criteria as at the closing date for applications:

- Be either:
 - I. an Australian citizen or permanent resident; or
 - II. a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident who identifies as female.
- Be professionally engaged in one or more of the following fields:
 - I. Scientific research, including biomedical, health, clinical, or life sciences;
 - II. Medical or clinical practice; or
 - III. Pharmaceutical research or development.
- Be currently based in Australia or New Zealand, or have made significant contributions to science, healthcare, or public health in Australia or New Zealand, even if currently residing overseas.
- Be at an early-to-mid career stage, typically defined as within ten (10) years of conferral of highest degree (PhD, MD, or equivalent). Consideration will be given to applicants whose careers have been interrupted or who have followed non-linear pathways, including career changes, parental leave, or other significant personal or professional circumstances.
- Have no substantiated findings of professional misconduct or breaches of ethics.
- Be available and willing to attend the Canberra events on 13 October 2026, including the Finalist Reception, Prize announcement dinner and Alumni Breakfast on 14 October 2026. Novo Nordisk will cover reasonable travel and accommodation expenses as outlined in Section 7 of the Terms & Conditions.

Formatting Guidelines

- All acronyms to be spelt out first time written.
- Submissions are expected to adhere strictly to the word limits within the application.
- Referee File naming convention:
[ApplicantLastName_FirstName]_Referee1.pdf and
[ApplicantLastName_FirstName]_Referee2.pdf
(e.g., Smith_Emma_Referee1.pdf)

APPLICATION

The application for the Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize consists of three short-answer questions and a personal statement. Applicants are also asked to provide two (2) written references using the [Supporting Statement Template](#).

- Candidates will be asked to respond to one question under each of the key pillars: Innovation, Impact and Leadership. These questions are designed to explore professional experience, contributions, and alignment with the purpose of the Prize.
- In the personal statement, candidates should outline their motivation for nominating and how their work reflects the aims and criteria of the Prize.

Submission Questions

1. Innovation in Scientific Research

Can you describe a specific project or initiative in your research that demonstrates originality and innovation? What was your contribution to this advancement and how was this innovative? What were the key challenges you faced, and how did you address them to advance knowledge in your field? (up to 500 words)

2. Impact on Healthcare

How has your work contributed to improving patient care or public health outcomes? Please provide examples of measurable impacts your research has had on healthcare practices or policies in your field. (up to 500 words)

3. Leadership and Community Engagement

Reflect on a time when you demonstrated leadership in your professional or academic community. How did you promote engagement among peers or drive initiatives that support the development of young women in science and medicine? (up to 500 words)

Supplementary Assessment

Personal Statement

Provide a statement detailing why you are applying for the award as it relates to the aims of the criteria. Include any career changes, breaks, or alternative pathways, and how these experiences have shaped your contributions to science. (up to 300 words)

Supporting Statements

Using the [Supporting Statement Template](#), applicants are required to upload two (2) statements in support of their application.

- Referees must not be immediate family members.
- At least one referee should be from an academic or research background.

- Each statement should outline the referee’s relationship to the applicant and comment on the applicant’s scientific potential, leadership qualities, and character.
- Referee statements must be submitted as separate PDF documents clearly identified with the applicant’s name using the naming conventions outlined in the Style Guidelines.

JUDGING FRAMEWORK

Judging Approach

The Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize is assessed through a transparent, structured, and pathway-aware evaluation process grounded in the three core pillars of the award: *Innovation Impact* and *Leadership*.

Judges assess excellence using the same criteria for all applicants, but interpret achievement in context, considering career stage, research pathway, discipline norms, and opportunity. This ensures that innovation, impact, and leadership are recognised wherever they occur, whether in basic discovery, translation, clinical practice, or population health.

Scoring Method

Each nominee is scored independently against the three pillars. Judges allocate a score from 1 to 5 per pillar, based on evidence provided.

Scoring Scale

1 =	Limited evidence	Minimal, unclear, or unsubstantiated contribution.
2 =	Basic evidence	Early or modest contribution with limited reach or depth.
3 =	Solid evidence	Clear, credible contribution appropriate to career stage.
4 =	Strong evidence	Highly convincing contribution with demonstrated influence.
5 =	Exceptional evidence	Outstanding, field-leading contribution with sustained or transformative significance.
Maximum total score: 15 points		

Innovation in Scientific Research (1–5 points) (up to 500 words)	
Focus:	Originality, creativity, and advancement in scientific knowledge.
Judges Consider:	Novelty of ideas, methods or conceptual frameworks Scientific ambition and problem solving Contribution to advancing understanding or practice within the field.
Pathway-Sensitive Guidance	Innovation may be demonstrated through a variety of ways. For example, Basic science: conceptual advances, mechanistic insight, methodological innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translational research: bridging discovery to application, pipeline development • Clinical research: trial design, implementation innovation, practice change • Population/policy research: new models, systems thinking, or evaluative frameworks Longer innovation timelines (e.g. pre-clinical research) are explicitly recognised.

Scoring Anchors	<p>Score 3 (Solid):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly articulated original contribution Evidence of independent thinking Outputs appropriate to discipline and career stage <p>Score 5 (Exceptional Evidence):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field-shaping or paradigm-shifting innovation Adoption or recognition beyond institution Clear trajectory of sustained creative leadership
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Impact on Healthcare (1–5 points) (up to 500 words)	
Focus:	Demonstrated contribution to improving health outcomes, policy, or practice.
Judges Consider:	Nature and scale of impact (direct or indirect). Evidence of translation, influence or uptake Relevance to healthcare policy, or population wellbeing
Pathway-Sensitive Guidelines	<p>Impact is assessed relative to pathway and timeframe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct impact (e.g. guidelines, clinical practice, policy change) Indirect or enabling impact (e.g. tools, datasets, platforms, pipelines) Future or anticipated impact, especially where timelines exceed 5–10 years <p>Applicants should not be disadvantaged for working in areas where impact is longer-term.</p>
Scoring Anchors	<p>Score 3 (Solid):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear connection between research and health relevance Evidence of influence, engagement, or readiness for translation <p>Score 5 (Exceptional):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurable, multi-level healthcare or policy impact or Compelling evidence of high-probability future impact supported by adoption, scale, or funding

Leadership and Community Engagement (1–5 points) (up to 500 words)	
Focus:	Demonstrated leadership, mentorship, advocacy and contribution to research culture, particularly in supporting women in science and medicine.
Judges Consider:	<p>Formal and informal leadership roles. Mentorship and sponsorship of others. Contribution to inclusive, collaborative, or equitable environments.</p> <p>Leadership may be demonstrated without formal titles.</p>
Pathway-Sensitive Guidance	<p>Leadership includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory or team leadership Mentoring students, trainees, or peers Advocacy for women and under-represented groups Institution-wide, disciplinary, or community engagement
Scoring Anchors	<p>Score 3 (Solid):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent, meaningful engagement in mentorship or leadership Evidence of positive influence on others <p>Score 5 (Exceptional):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustained leadership with demonstrable cultural or systemic impact Clear role-model status and influence beyond immediate environment

Supplementary Assessment

Personal Statement (not scored) (up to 300 words)	
Focus:	300-word personal statement. Contextualisation, motivation and alignment with prize values.
Judges Consider:	Alignment with the Marie Krogh Young Women in Science prize vision Authenticity and reflective insight Integration across all three pillars – Innovation, Impact and Leadership.

Supporting Statement x 2	
Focus:	One-page PDF upload for each reference – Supporting Statement Template must be used
Requirements:	Not immediate family At least one referee with academic/research expertise Relationship to applicant clearly stated
Judges Consider:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent validation of achievements • Commentary on scientific potential, leadership, and character • Consistency with application claims

ADDRESSING THE CRITERIA

To maximise your score, your submission should present clear, evidence-based narratives across all three pillars: Innovation, Impact, and Leadership.

Strong applications are:

- Well-structured (clear beginning, middle, and end)
- Specific (use examples and metrics where relevant)
- Reflective (demonstrate insight and growth)
- Forward-looking (indicate sustained contribution and future trajectory)

Your tone should be confident yet authentic, recognising that excellence may be expressed differently across disciplines and career pathways.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the application process, eligibility criteria or submission requirements, please don't hesitate to reach out for support.

Queries can be directed to the Prize administrators at MKPrize@novonordisk.com.

Applicants are also welcome to contact this address if they experience any technical difficulties during the submission process or require clarification on any aspect of the Prize.