

HONORARY FELLOW - GUIDANCE FOR NOMINATORS

What is Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry?

Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (HonFRSC) is unique to the RSC and is its most prestigious category of membership. Limited constitutionally to no more than 175 individuals, it is reserved for distinguished persons making a substantial impact on the science and profession of chemistry, and those generating exceptional benefit to society through the chemical science community.

What are the RSC's aspirations for the Honorary Fellow membership category?

The RSC wishes to provide recognition to those who are making a difference to the advancement of chemical science, not only those making exciting scientific discoveries but also those who accomplish eminent success in serving others, benefiting wider society, and shaping the future of the chemical science profession.

The RSC wants its Honorary Fellows to reflect the full diversity of its communities and wants to actively ensure a growth in nominations from underrepresented groups. It also wishes to recognise exceptional individuals who have achieved substantial success despite significant personal challenges.

Who can become an Honorary Fellow?

Any person who meets the criteria for admission **and** is considered by the RSC's Board of Trustees as being someone to celebrate as part of the advancement of chemical science and its application.

Who are Honorary Fellows currently?

Our Honorary Fellows are worldwide and include:

- Esteemed chemists making outstanding discoveries and shaping the future of chemistry.
- Renowned scientists impacting significantly on chemical science.
- Prominent business leaders achieving commercial success for organisations in which innovative chemical science is of major importance.
- Outstanding educators playing a key role in developing high-quality and innovative science education for the next generation of chemists.
- Extraordinary representatives of the public interest in matters relating to the science and practice of chemistry.

An up-to-date list of Honorary Fellows can be found at <https://www.rsc.org/about-us/our-history/our-honorary-fellows/>

What are the criteria for admission to Honorary Fellow?

In the interests of ensuring a transparent and accountable process for admission, the RSC's Board of Trustees has agreed *Regulations for Admission to Honorary Fellow*. All nominations are evaluated against these regulations.

What does the RSC expect of its Honorary Fellows?

In addition to receiving the prestige, there is an expectation that Honorary Fellows act as advocates for the RSC, attend high-profile events where practical, and actively contribute to the development of the RSC's vision and its work.

Who can make a nomination?

Any RSC member can submit a nomination to the RSC's Nominations Committee at any time. The annual deadline for nominations is in mid-September.

How can I make a nomination?

For fairness and consistency, nominations have to be presented to the Nominations Committee on the prescribed Nominations Form. Go to the [RSC website](#) to download it or request a copy by email to governance@rsc.org. The form requires you to state the case for your nominee in relation to the eligibility and success criteria. You also need to confirm that the nomination meets the RSC's aspirations for the Honorary Fellow category and your expectation that the nominee is able to satisfy the RSC's expectations of its Honorary Fellows. Your nomination needs to be based on information that is publicly known and must not include any personal data that could impact the nominee's privacy.

Can I tell anyone about my nomination?

It is important that confidentiality is observed at all stages of the process. You must not disclose your nomination to the nominee or others. If the nomination is successful, the RSC will inform the nominee that you made the nomination.

When are new Honorary Fellows announced?

Admissions to Honorary Fellow are normally announced towards the end of each calendar year. This follows the Nominations Committee's evaluation of nominations in October and the Board of Trustees' final consideration in November. Certificates are normally presented personally at a high-profile RSC event the following year.

Can I get any further guidance?

If you have any questions or want to receive any further advice on making your nomination, please send an email to governance@rsc.org.