**Water Woman 2021**

**water@leeds with Athena Swan teams partnering to recognize the inspiring power of women**

water@leeds in partnership with faculty Athena Swan teams are delighted to announce the second **Water Woman Award**. Water Woman aims to recognize the achievements of women in Science, and their power to inspire others. By rewarding achievements by women whose work contributes to the scientific objectives of water@leeds in securing competitive research funds, producing world-class research or achieving significant societal impact, the **Water Woman Award** aims at highlighting their efforts in an academic world in which the hurdles are still greater for females.

The award is based on two equally weighted criteria: the nature of the achievement, and its potential for empowering and inspiring other women into following their example. The **Water Woman Award** concerns achievements having taken place (or having reached a significant milestone) within their last 5 full time equivalent years[[1]](#footnote-1). Contributions can be of any discipline or support sector of the University contributing to addressing water related challenges. The awards are open to all employees of the University of Leeds identifying as women.

The Award will be split in 4 categories:

* **Research Excellence:** in recognition of outstanding research (e.g. finding or set of findings and how their value is recognized by the academic community)
* **Funding achievement:** in recognition of success in securing significant competitive research funding (e.g. grants or series of linked grants)[[2]](#footnote-2).
* **Societal impact and Knowledge transfer**: in recognition of translating research and innovation.
* **Academic support**: in recognition of critical support provided to the achievement of any of the above (e.g. through administrative, organizational or technical support)

This year we are also launching an additional **Early Career Award**. Early career is defined as being within eight years of the award of their PhD[[3]](#footnote-3) and applies to any of the above categories. Applicants without a PhD will still be considered for the Academic Support Award.

The Water Woman winners will receive **£1000 each** and the Early Career Award will receive **£500**, transferred to their staff development account. The award winners are expected to contribute to empowering other women through their examples. They will be expected to use the funds of the award to promote their careers in a way that also benefits other women in following their examples, for example, through knowledge exchange activities[[4]](#footnote-4). Award Winners will need to submit an activity summary by the 31st of July.

They will also be expected to contribute to activities by Athena Swan and water@leeds to share experiences and serve as inspiration to other women.

Are you:

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|  | Applying for yourself  |  | Nominating somebody (please indicate your relationship |
|  |  |  | to them:…………………………………………………….) |

Details of applicant/nominee:

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| --- |
| Title: ……….. Name:…………………………………………………………………………………………….Department: ………………………………… School: ……………………………………………………….Email: ………………………………………………. |

Is this an application for:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | A research funding achievement |  | Research Excellence |  | Societal Impact/Knowledge transfer |
|  | Research Support |  | Early career (academic) |  | Early career (support staff) |

1. **Research Background.** Please, explain the research basis that underpins your achievement, indicating your contribution to it. Avoid overly technical language so this section can be understood by a multidisciplinary panel. 300 words.

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1. **Describe your achievement.** Please, use this section to factually describe the nature of your achievement. Please supply suitable evidence (e.g. number of citations, work being featured at a prestigious outlet or forum, value and success rate of grant applications in the context discipline, evidence of significance or attribution of impact, critical support contribution, etc.). 300 words. Please make sure your description is specific to the category that you are applying for, and focus on either: **A scientific achievement** – detail your findings, why they are important, and how they were published/communicated and how were they recognized by the academic community. **Funding success** – detail a grant or series of grants you have been awarded, their values, why do they represent a particular success. **Societal impact**– why your research is important to society, how it has been communicated, and the impact it has had beyond academia. **Key Support** – ways in which you have supported research groups, initiatives you have taken, and resulting research group success. 300 words.

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1. **Why you think your achievement can be inspiring to other female academics or research support staff?** Use this section freely to express your own views on your achievement, highlighting why you are proud of it, what others can learn from it, what circumstances make it particularly significant, the narrative through which it came about, lessons that you learned, etc. This section can include non-academic arguments. 500 words.

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The aim of this award is for your example to inspire others. Please tick if you are applying for yourself and explain briefly how you would like to use the funds of the award.

* By submitting this application, I understand that I accept the commitment to support water@leeds and Athena Swan teams in their efforts to inspire and empower other female academics through agreed follow-up activity within a year of the award. The form and intensity of such support will be tailored to my own needs and capabilities and will be co-designed with water@leeds and Athena Swan team members.

Closing date for applications and nominations: **Friday 15th January 2pm**

Announcement of awards: **11th of February- International Day of Women and Girls In Science**

**Assessment panel:**

* Julia Martin-Ortega, Professor of Ecological Economics, Associate Director of Water@leeds (Panel Chair)
* Clare Woulds, Associate Professor in Water, Soil and Carbon Interactions, Faculty of Environment Athena Swan Team Chair.
* Gabriela Lopez-Gonzalez, water@leeds Coordinator
* Karen Tsui, Representing the Women At Leeds Network

A panel member from the water@leeds team identifying as male will be invited to take part of the panel as an observer.

For more information, please contact: Prof. Julia Martin-Ortega (j.martinortega@leeds.ac.uk) or Dr. Gabriela Lopez-Gonzalez (g.lopez-gonzalez@leeds.ac.uk).

**Submit by emailing this form to** **water@leeds.ac.uk** **by Friday 15th January 2pm**

1. i.e. the time of career breaks is to be discounted from the 5 years. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The level of significance will be considered in relation to the discipline and area of work and does not include a specific threshold of the value amount. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. We class an early career researcher (ECR) as being: within eight years of the award of their PhD (this duration should exclude any period of career break, for example, family care or health reasons) Or within six years of their first academic appointment (by 'first academic appointment', this is a paid contract of employment, either full-time or part-time, which lists research and/or teaching as the primary function). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Water Woman is funded with HEIF funds. The Award needs to be spent in type of activities supported by HEIF. <https://re.ukri.org/knowledge-exchange/the-higher-education-innovation-fund-heif/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)