Origins Project Postdoctoral Lectureship Award

Frequently Asked Questions

The Origins Project at Arizona State University is pleased to accept nominations for the Origins Project Postdoctoral Lectureship Award beginning September 1. This award, the largest of its kind in the world, is given annually to an outstanding junior scholar chosen from all countries, from any field of study relevant to the Origins Project, and will consist of a $10,000 USD award, coach travel to/from Tempe, Arizona, and accommodations during the week-long visit. The winner will give 3 talks on his or her research, as well as participate in other Origins Project events during the week.

How do I apply?
Direct applications are not accepted. All candidates must be nominated. Based on nomination letters and the Chair Nomination Form, the Origins Project selection committee will solicit additional materials from candidates. Candidates will be contacted in mid-November to submit more information and additional materials.

Who can nominate me?
Nominators can only be any faculty member familiar with the candidate and his or her research. Faculty nominators can upload their nomination letter to our confidential Dropbox. However, as only one nominee per department will be considered, the Chair Nomination Form must be completed and submitted by the relevant department chair confirming that the postdoctoral scholar is their only departmental nominee. The postdoctoral scholar is responsible for verifying that they have both been received by the deadline.

What should be in the nomination letter?
The nomination letter should be a letter of support for you candidacy discussing your research potential, publication record, academic achievement, your potential for creative leadership in your field, and ability to communicate science topics to a broad audience. Please see the Instructions for Nominators for more information.

I'm an ASU postdoc, can I apply?
The award is limited to junior scholars outside of Arizona State University. To be eligible for the award you cannot currently be working for ASU in any paid capacity. The is, however, open to former ASU PhDs and researchers.

I didn't get the prize this year, can I reapply next year?
Nominations will not be retained, but we encourage repeat nominations, which will require a new nomination letter and Chair Nomination Form each year.

Will I require a visa to visit ASU?
If you reside in a country that requires a visa for entry to the US, you will need a visa. The award winner will be responsible for obtaining any required visa. For information on whether you will require a visa, see the State Department website.

How is the short-list selected?
Members of the Origins Project selection committee will review nomination letters and Chair Nomination Forms based on evidence of research, publications, and science communication.

How is the winner selected?
After the short-list candidates have submitted their materials, the selection committee made up of Origins Project faculty, external board members, and ASU disciplinary faculty will choose a winner.

Is there an age limit?
There is no age limit, but the PhD must have been awarded no earlier than July 1, 2013.

Do I need to pay taxes on the award?
The winner will be responsible for any taxes that may be incurred and/or associated with the award.

What should be in the lecture proposal?
The narrative lecture proposal should be a brief summary of what topics you hope to cover in your lectures while at ASU. In no more than 1,200 words you will tell us about 1 large public lecture and 2 smaller colloquia you propose. The lecture/colloquia can be presented as thematically or chronologically connected, or they can be distinct lectures. The larger public lecture will have a mixture of discipline-specific faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and interested community members. For an example of winning lectures, see 2015 winner Adrian Liu’s lecture, and 2016 winner Aomawa Shields’ lecture.