

Chemical Landmarks application guidance

We welcome proposals for new Chemical Landmarks – awarded as blue plaques – that celebrate the diverse people, teams, collaborations and organisations who are helping to make the world a better place through the chemical sciences. To find out more information about our Chemical Landmarks [visit our website](#).

Points to explore before beginning your application

Below are some points that you should consider prior to beginning your application. Some of these points give further detail on the eligibility criteria. This list is to help guide you in preparing your application and highlight information that we are expecting to see in your nomination.

Is this a novel plaque?

We will only award one blue plaque for any individual, team, building, innovation or discovery. Please check our [existing plaques](#) on our website to ensure your nomination has not already been commemorated by the RSC Chemical Landmarks scheme.

Who or what is the nomination celebrating, and what is the impact?

Please provide complete and specific detail of what the nomination is to celebrate. Tell us about individuals/teams connected to the nomination as well as their achievements. For example, would it celebrate people working in different roles and at different levels in their career? Would it help shine a light on the diverse people and roles in the chemistry community? If you are nominating a team or site, what specific examples of work/breakthroughs/discoveries are particularly notable? Consider the scale of the impact (local, regional, national, global) and the nature of this impact (on e.g. health, climate and the environment, wealth and industry, sustainability, wellbeing, education, justice, equality, nutrition or alleviation of poverty). Does the plaque relate to the [RSC mission](#) to help the chemical science community make the world a better place? Please note that for nominations of individuals, the building/location must be directly connected to the persons' chemical science education or work - places of birth and dwellings, for example, are not eligible.

Is the nomination verifiable?

The work of an individual or team and the connection of a location to a discovery/process/innovation must be able to be evidenced via a third-party source. The positive impact of the nomination should also be verifiable. If there is no evidence to support the nomination, the application cannot be considered.

Who are the stakeholders?

Think about who your local stakeholders are and initiate some conversations. Your stakeholders might be local schools, community groups, parks, libraries, museums, universities or the council. You may wish to get in touch with some of them to tell them about the application and gain their input to help you shape the awards' engagement with the local community. Some areas have their own local plaque scheme. If there is one in the area, would this plaque connect with the local scheme? You might want to consider liaising with your [Royal Society of Chemistry Local Section](#) who may be able to support you with your application.



Where is the plaque to be mounted, what permissions are needed and how can these be obtained?

Think about where you would site the final plaque. You may have more than one option to propose, and you are welcome to include images in your application to illustrate positioning. A key criterion for the RSC is that the plaque is displayed in an accessible and publicly visible location that is frequented/ passed by the public daily. How does the proposed location(s) meet this criterion? You must ascertain who the authority is for your requested location and ensure that you can get permission. Any successful plaque award is conditional on gaining the permission of the freeholder for the installation. Check if the building is listed. Is planning permission required? If so, liaise with the relevant planning team to get advice on whether a plaque could be installed and what you need to do to start the process for gaining planning consent.

Unveiling Celebration

The award of an RSC Chemical Landmark is an occasion for celebration and an opportunity to engage the scientific and local communities with the subject area of the award. It is normal practice for Landmark awards, that a formal unveiling ceremony is organised. Consider who you would want to invite to a formal unveiling event and what this event might look like. For example, will there be an accompanying lecture? Will there be a reception? Will you be inviting people from within the scientific community? Will you invite members of the local non-scientific community?

Its capacity to engage the local and/or wider community

Applications must include an actionable plan to engage with the local non-scientific community to celebrate the nomination's subject matter to inspire, change perceptions, highlight and enthuse others about the value of chemistry in enriching the world using a local context. We want to hear how you plan to engage your community stakeholders. These engagements need not occur on the same day as the formal unveiling. Tell us about any celebration event you would hold. Think about ways that you could involve diverse groups of people in fun, creative, participatory activities that could bring the story behind the plaque to life.

Will you involve local media, schools, families, community groups, shops, libraries or heritage organisations? In what way? Will the plaque connect with any existing local scheme, event, festival or trail? Please note that the time between the notification of a successful award and an unveiling is typically 4-6 months. If you have any questions regarding this timeframe, please get in touch with the team via email to oureach@rsc.org.

Does the proposal meet the eligibility criteria?

The Chemical Landmarks scheme is a competitive one, and we expect all nominations to meet the scheme criteria. Each application will be considered based on its relative fulfilment against each criterion. It should be noted that any application which contradicts any aspect of the criteria will not be successful.

Making your application

You can find a list of the application questions on our [website](#). When you are ready to begin the application process, you should get in touch with the team via email to oureach@rsc.org. A member of the team will get back to you to have a short, informal discussion about your nomination ahead of directing you to the formal written application.

Speak to us

We welcome informal discussions from people or teams interested in making an application for a new plaque. If you wish to talk with us, please get in touch via email to oureach@rsc.org and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

