

BCS Lovelace Medal

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR MAKING A NOMINATION

Thank you for helping us to highlight and appreciate extraordinary people and their exceptional contributions to computing. This document is provided to encourage and assist anyone who is making a nomination for the BCS Lovelace Medal for Computing Education or the BCS Lovelace Medal for Computing Research. Nominations for these prizes are open until 23:59 on 31st December 2026.

We hope you find it helpful. If you have any questions or feedback, you can contact us at awardscommittee@bcs.uk.

Who can make a nomination

We want to encourage everyone to make a nomination, so that we can create a strong and diverse pool of nominees for each prize, representative of the full diversity of the computing community.

Nominations are accepted from anyone, anywhere in the world. Self-nominations are not accepted. Nominators and nominees do not need to be BCS members.

Choosing someone to nominate

You may already have someone in mind, but if not, these questions might help generate ideas:

- Who do you take inspiration from in the world of computing?
- Whose work has had a major impact on you and your work?
- What are the significant contributions in education or research that stand out as exemplary?
- Who is setting the high bar for ethics, accountability and professionalism in computing?
- Who is advancing knowledge, accelerating innovation, or enabling the study of computing in the most impactful ways?

Nominees could be academic, industry or education professionals. They should have had major, notable impact in their field, and be widely recognised for their excellence as well as their wider contribution to the computing community. They could have furthered knowledge or public understanding, or driven a transformational change in their discipline. They may have made a breakthrough, opened a new area of research, or advanced the efficacy or availability of computing education, including through public policy. They must have a direct connection with the UK. They do not need to be BCS members.

If you have good knowledge of your nominee and their work, it will be easier to write about their professional achievements and the impact they have had on computing.

As a registered charity, it's especially important our awards are made to the most appropriate people. When making a nomination, you will be asked to confirm that to the best of your knowledge there is no impediment, relating to professional conduct, to your nominee receiving this prize.

Tips for making a good nomination

Our Selection Panels will base their evaluations on the quality of the nominee's work, the innovative nature of the work, its overall impact on computing research or education, as well as for their broader contribution to the computing community. **Each nomination will be evaluated on the information provided in the nomination form, so please ensure that you provide as much relevant information as possible.**

1. Write for a general audience:

Nominations should be written for a general computing audience. Whilst our selection panel will hold a range of expertise, it is unlikely that all members will have specialised knowledge in the particular field of the nominee. The questions are structured to help you showcase the impact and significance of your nominee's work. It's up to you to make a strong case in the most inclusive way you can.

2. Address the Selection Criteria.

Take time to read the selection criteria which are summarised on our webpages.

Use the offline forms, which can be downloaded from our website, to craft your responses to the questions. Aim for relevant, thorough and accurate information, provided in a clear and succinct way. If you can do this, you will be making the strongest case for your nominee and helping the selection panel to make the best possible decisions.

3. Use the space wisely

We judge our prizes substantially on the responses in the nomination form. Space is limited. Avoid duplicating information and make the maximum use of the different sections to tell us as much as possible about the nominee. **If your nominee has worked as part of a team, ensure that you provide details on their personal contribution.**

Communication after nomination

Nominees will not receive any further updates on the nomination once it has been made.

BCS staff may contact nominators on clarification points and eligibility questions should they need to during the nomination and selection process.

If there has been a change of circumstances regarding the nominee which makes them no longer eligible, or if information has come to light which disputes the suitability of the nominee for an award, please contact us at awardscommittee@bcs.uk.