



The Curry MSc Prize of the Geologists' Association

The Geologists' Association

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Prize Regulations and Application Guidelines

The Geologists' Association is inviting nominations for the annual Curry Prize of £1000 for the best MSc thesis on a geological topic arising from a geoscience taught course in a UK university.

The Curry Fund of the Association was established in 1986 by a gift of Dennis Curry (1912-2001). Although Curry is best known as joint Managing Director (1946-1968) and Chairman (1968-1984) of the high street electrical goods chain Currys Ltd, he was also a gifted non-professional geologist and palaeontologist, with over 130 publications in the field. He was Visiting Professor at University College London (1971-84), where he taught micro-palaeontology to the Marine Geology MSc course. He joined the Association in 1934, was its President (1964-66), was honoured with its Foulerton Award in 1962 and was made an Honorary Member in 1971.

The aim of the Curry Prize is to **encourage student excellence**. The prize is awarded to the best one or more Master's degree theses in the opinion of the judging panel on a geology-related topic arising from an MSc taught course in a UK university. Each prize consists of £1000 plus membership of the Geologists' Association for the following calendar year.

Prize winners will also be invited to submit a manuscript based on their thesis to the *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association* for consideration for publication (subject to the normal refereeing process). The judging panel has the right to withhold the award in any year if the quality of the entries is deemed insufficient. The prizes will be awarded at the Annual General Meeting of the GA (usually in early May) for theses produced in the previous year.

The closing date for submissions is **15 November**. No more than one nomination from each MSc programme may be submitted.

Conditions of entry:

1. Entrants must be Master's degree students who completed their studies on a taught course not longer than one year prior to the closing date of the entry period.
2. The MSc thesis topic is academically relevant to the geological sciences.
3. Each entry is chosen by the Director of each eligible MSc taught course and submitted for consideration by the judging panel. Only *one* thesis may be submitted from a given course per academic year, and should be submitted with the agreement of the student concerned.
4. Entries should be sent in by 15 November in the calendar year following completion of the MSc course.

5. By allowing their thesis to be entered for the prize, both authors and course Directors affirm that they have read and accepted these conditions.
6. Family members of those comprising the judging panel and Council members / employees of the Geologists' Association are not eligible to enter.

Assessment:

1. The topic of the thesis must, in the opinion of the judging panel, be academically relevant to the geological sciences.
2. Judging criteria will be: geological interest, clarity of presentation and argument.
3. It is not possible to appeal against or object to the panel's decision.
4. Nominating tutors will be notified of the results in April of the following year.

Judging panel:

1. The judging panel will be appointed annually by the President of the Geologists' Association, who will be its chairman.
2. In addition to the chairman, the judging panel comprises experts who may not necessarily be members of the Geologists' Association. The number of members of the panel will not be less than three.
3. The judging panel has the right to withhold one or more of the awards in any year if the quality of the entries is deemed insufficient.

Prizes:

1. The authors of winning entries will receive a cash prize of £1000 and membership of the Geologists' Association for the following calendar year. An awardee may also, at the judges' discretion, be invited to submit a manuscript based on their thesis to the Proceedings of the Geologists' Association for consideration for publication (subject to the normal refereeing process).
2. The Curry Prizes will be presented annually to the recipients at the Association's Annual General Meeting, normally held early in May each year.

Final provision:

In all cases not provided for in these regulations, or in which the judges are not able to reach a final decision, the chairman will decide.

Application Procedure:

1. Nominations must be made by either the Head of Department or MSc Director and submitted no later than November 15th.
2. A completed nomination form must be submitted together with a copy of the entrant's thesis.
 - a. Electronically, to awards@geologistsassociation.org.uk
 - b. By post, in a package marked "Curry Prize submission" sent to The Executive Secretary, Geologists' Association, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0DU.