

## APPLICATION FORM FOR THE 2026 CAROLINE HERSCHEL PRIZE LECTURESHIP

To be submitted via email to [awards@ras.ac.uk](mailto:awards@ras.ac.uk) by 30 April.

The Caroline Herschel Prize Lectureship was established by what is now the Herschel Society in association with the Royal Astronomical Society to celebrate Caroline's memory by supporting promising women astronomers early in their careers. To be eligible applicants should be employed in astronomy, and at least one-year post-PhD (from their viva date), and not yet established in, nor appointed to, nor on probation for, a permanent position, nor in a proleptic lectureship that is expected to lead to a permanent post. Your current position should be based in the UK or, in the case of a career break, you should be based in the UK. The Prize Lectureship will be awarded for achievements in Research and/or Instrument Building and/or Communication and/or Teaching, and is open to individuals with a wide variety of career backgrounds.

For the purposes of this award, astronomy is broadly defined to include astrophysics, cosmology, astroparticle physics, astrobiology, astrochemistry, solar physics, solar-terrestrial physics, planetary and meteoritic sciences.

By applying, you are certifying that you are eligible by the criteria set out above. If you have any questions about this, feel free to contact [awards@ras.ac.uk](mailto:awards@ras.ac.uk) for clarification.

The winner will be expected to deliver the Prize Lecture at the University of Bath in November, and again as an RAS Public Lecture in London. There is also a cash prize of £500. Reasonable travel expenses within the UK will be refunded.

Your Name:

Your Institute:

Your email address:

Your contact telephone number:

You should also ask a referee to provide to [awards@ras.ac.uk](mailto:awards@ras.ac.uk) by 30 April a brief letter of support, including a comment on your lecturing abilities.

Please also attach:

- A one-page CV including details of your current post
- A publication List.

Please state (in no more than 600 words) the achievements of which you are most proud, how you are demonstrating research leadership, and your motivation for applying to give the Caroline Herschel Prize Lecture.

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Title of proposed Lecture:
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Synopsis – up to 100 words:
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Signature:

Date:

Please complete the RAS Diversity Monitoring Form below and submit it with your application.

## Diversity Monitoring Form

At the RAS, we are committed to being a diverse and equal society. We wish to ensure that all are treated fairly, irrespective of race, gender, age, disability, caring responsibilities, sexual orientation, marital/civil partnership status, religion/belief or nationality.

To help us measure how effective we have been in communicating with and attracting a diverse range of people, and to suggest actions to improve accordingly, it is necessary to collect data on those we interact with, and this is precisely the purpose of this monitoring form. The data collected from this form will be used only for monitoring purposes and planning future actions in the area of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). All the data will be completely anonymised and deleted afterwards, and all individuals have the right to access, correct, and/or request their information to be deleted at any time. Copies of our diversity policy are available upon request, and we will also be able to provide our diversity statistics from late 2026.

If completing by hand please tick the relevant  in the answers below and add detail where asked. If completing on your device please put an "X" after the relevant answers below and add detail where asked.

### 1. Gender

- Woman
- Man
- Non- binary/Gender queer
- Prefer not to say
- Other – Please specify:

### 2. Sexual Orientation

- Gay
- Lesbian
- Pansexual
- Bisexual
- Heterosexual
- Prefer not to say
- Other – please specify:

### 3. Ethnic Background

#### **Asian or Asian British**

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background

#### **Black, Black British, Caribbean or African**

- Caribbean
- African
- Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background

#### **Mixed or multiple ethnic groups**

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed or multiple ethnic background

#### **White**

- English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Roma
- Any other White background
- Prefer not to say

4. Religion/Belief

- Agnostic
- Atheist
- Humanist
- Buddhist
- Christian (including Catholic, Church of England, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)
- Hindu
- Muslim
- Jewish
- Sikh
- Prefer not to say
- Other – please specify:

5. Age

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75-84
- 95 and over
- Prefer not to say

## 6. Disability

- Visual impairment/blindness
- Speech impairment
- Mobility impairment
- Physical co-ordination difficulties
- Reduced physical capacity
- Severe disfigurement
- Hearing impairment
- Learning difficulties
- Mental illness
- Progressive conditions
- None
- Prefer not to say
- Other – please specify:

## 7. Marital Status

- Single
- Married/Civil Partnership/Cohabiting
- Separated
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Prefer not to say
- Other – please specify:

8. Caring Responsibilities

- Children (under 18)
- Disabled children
- Disabled adult (18 and over)
- Elderly (65 and over)
- Secondary Carer
- Prefer not to say
- Not applicable
- Other – please specify:

9. Are you currently pregnant or have you been in the last year.?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say
- Other – please specify:

10. Have you taken any of the following types of leave in the past year?

- Maternity leave
- Paternity leave
- Adoption leave
- Shared parental leave
- Not applicable
- Prefer not to say
- Other – please specify: