

Department of Space and Climate Physics
Awards

Process

The Awards process will be run annually, and are intended to celebrate exceptional achievements, or contributions to the Department, by members of the Department.

Eligibility: Specific eligibility criteria are provided below for each Award. Academic staff are considered to have other possibilities for recognition of exceptional achievement and are therefore not eligible to be nominated (except for the Director's Teaching Award).

Criteria: The activity that is the subject of the nomination should generally have occurred in the year prior to the nominations submission deadline. Specific criteria are provided below for each Award.

Nomination: Individuals may either nominate themselves or be proposed by a colleague. Nominations should be submitted by individuals rather than groups of people. The nomination case should not exceed 400 words and should describe clearly and succinctly why the candidate's activities merit consideration for the award.

Selection Process: The Head of Department will appoint an Awards Panel to assess the nominations. Panel membership should be drawn from across the Department to provide a broad perspective on the nominations. If a Panel member has a conflict of interest in relation to a particular nomination, they should announce it and the Panel will take note. The Panel may seek external opinion as necessary. In the unlikely event that no strong cases are submitted in a particular category, the relevant Award need not be awarded.

Nature of the Award: £250 plus certificate. Winners of the Director's Award also receive a copy of Eric Dorling's memoirs of MSSL.

Awards ceremony presentations: The Award recipients will be invited to give a presentation of their work at the Awards ceremony. Scientific researchers and students are expected to be familiar with presenting their work, and may already have a relevant presentation, so it is expected that the recipients of the Robert Boyd and the Alan Johnstone Awards will give presentations. Winners of the other awards are offered the option of delivering a presentation if they wish to. The durations of the presentations will be agreed each year, but will typically be 10-15 minutes. Presenters must practice ahead of time to avoid over-running.

Previous winners are listed here: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/mssl/department/mssl-awards>

The Robert Boyd Award

Sir Robert Boyd (1922-2004) established the Mullard Space Science Laboratory and was its first Director between 1965 and 1983. His pioneering and innovative research did much to establish space science in the UK. Sir Robert was elected FRS in 1969, appointed CBE in 1972 and knighted in 1983.

Presented for **Outstanding Scientific Achievement.**

Eligibility: All staff (excluding Academic staff and those on advanced fellowships) who worked within the Department of Space and Climate Physics at any time during the year immediately preceding the deadline for submission.

Criteria: The award will recognise research excellence (e.g. exceptional innovation, progress or achievement) manifest, for example, through a published paper or a series of thematic papers. The cited work should develop the science interests of the Department and should have come to fruition in the preceding year (e.g. a paper accepted for publication in that year).

Nomination: The nomination case should not exceed 400 words and should describe clearly and succinctly why the candidate's research merits consideration for the award. Cited publication(s) should be provided as an annex.

The Alan Johnstone Award

Professor Alan Johnstone a talented, energetic and highly respected space plasma scientist, died on 28 May 1999, aged 59. He was Professor of Space Science, UCL's Mullard Space Science Laboratory and head of the Space Plasma Group there. His expertise was in designing space plasma instrumentation and in the science of the aurora, the Earth's magnetosphere and solar wind interactions with other planets and comets. Alan was an inspirational teacher of undergraduate and graduate students, and was a generous, kind and friendly person. This award is in memory of his contribution to graduate training.

Presented for **Outstanding Scientific Achievement by a Research Student.**

Eligibility: All those who have been a research student within the Department of Space and Climate Physics at any time during the year immediately preceding the deadline for submission.

Criteria: The prize is open to ALL current PhD students in the Department irrespective of which year they are in, and will be awarded to the individual who has made greatest progress or had the largest impact in research in their field.

Nomination: Supervisors or any staff collaborating with the student can nominate. The nomination case should not exceed 400 words and should describe clearly and succinctly the outstanding scientific achievement of the student. Cited publication(s) should be provided as an annex.

The John Raymont Award

John Raymont (1944-2004) joined UCL's Physics Department as a technician at 16, in 1960. When a job in the 'Rocket Group' became available, he applied, was appointed, and never turned back. John was one of the 12 people who moved from the London campus to MSSL, in 1965. He retired from UCL in 2004 as Experimental Officer, and died at the end of the same year. In his 44-year career in space research John worked on a large number of rocket and satellite experiments, developing his role as test engineer, building a deep knowledge and practical understanding of space instrumentation. John had a drive 'to get the job done properly' which he inspired in those working with him, and which is the foundation of the success of so many of MSSL endeavours.

Presented for **Outstanding Commitment to MSSL's Technology Programme**

Eligibility: All non-academic staff and students in the Department of Space and Climate Physics

Criteria: The award recognises excellence associated with the development of space technologies over a career, as an exceptional achievement in the last year, or as a contribution to a project which has reached a major milestone (e.g. delivery) during the last year.

The Elizabeth Puchnarewicz Award

Dr Elizabeth M. Puchnarewicz (Liz) (1964-2003) joined the Mullard Space Science Laboratory in 1988 as a research student and went on to become a Senior Lecturer within the Department before her untimely death in 2003. While she was a very respected member of the scientific community, particularly interested in Active Galactic Nuclei, this award recognises Liz's exceptional, untiring and innovative contribution to Public Outreach and Science Education.

Presented for **Outstanding Contribution to Public Outreach**

Eligibility: All non-academic staff and students in the Department of Space and Climate Physics

Criteria: MSSL is rightly proud of its extensive outreach programme, much of which is undertaken through the voluntary efforts of its staff and students. This award recognises outstanding commitment to public outreach over the year immediately preceding the submission deadline.

The Director's Teaching Award

The Director's Teaching Award was introduced by Professor Andrew Fazakerley in 2022

Presented for **Outstanding Contributions to Teaching in the Department**

Eligibility: Department staff (including all academic staff, teaching staff, administrators and PG teaching assistants) involved in any aspect of teaching on our UG, MSc and MSc Apprenticeship courses and in the administration of those courses. Members of the Department doing service teaching for other Departments are included. PhD student supervision is not within the scope of the award.

Criteria: This award recognises excellence in delivering and supporting Teaching during the academic year immediately preceding the submission deadline. Nominations may for example highlight people who have been working to a consistently very high standard over several years; people bringing innovative and successful approaches to their own work, or to activities they lead on, or to teaching across the Department; teaching activities where student feedback has been exceptionally positive.

The Director's Award

The Director's Award was introduced by Prof Alan Smith as an occasional award made at the discretion of the Director. In 2017, Professor Andrew Fazakerley decided to open the award for nominations, and review by the Awards Panel.

Presented for **Outstanding Contributions in areas not recognised by the other 5 awards**

Eligibility: All non-academic staff and students in the Department of Space and Climate Physics

Criteria: The five afore-mentioned awards do not cover the full range of activities in the Department. This award recognises Outstanding Contributions to the Department in areas not covered by the other awards. This award is open to teams within MSSL as well as to individuals.