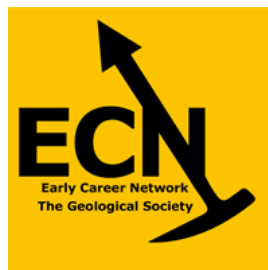


The Early Career Award 2026



The Geological Society

The Competition

The Early Career Award is a science communication award presented by the Early Career Network of the Geological Society of London. To compete, candidates give short talks on an aspect of their work to a mixed audience; the winner is the person who gives the best presentation as decided by a panel of geoscience judges.

The Award is held in up to 3 stages which are detailed below. The Final will be a hybrid event held at Burlington House, London, on **Wednesday 27th May, 2026**. The expectation is that Finalists will attend The Final in person. Accommodations can be made for winners of the Regional Heats and Wildcard competition to present virtually at the Semi-Final and Final due to time-zone challenges or travel commitments.

The Prize

The winner will receive a bespoke Early Career Geologist Award Trophy alongside a £100 gift voucher. All presenting finalists will receive a year's free GSL membership.

Eligibility

- Candidates must be Fellows of the Geological Society.
- Candidates should have a maximum of 10 years' experience following the graduation of their first relevant degree.
- Candidates must apply through the relevant Regional Group where they live/work, or through the ECN wildcard competition.
- Candidates entering the ECN wildcard are only eligible where their local regional group is **not** holding a local competition.

Entering the Competition

- The topic should be geoscience themed with the title chosen by the entrant.
- The presentation must be predominantly the candidates' own work and cited appropriately when not.

Stage 1 - Regional Group Heats & ECN Wildcard

- Candidates give a 10 minute presentation on their topic of choice, followed by up to 5 minutes allowance for judges questions.
- The winners of the Regional Heats go through to the next round of the competition.
- The Wildcard competition will follow the same rules, and will be hosted via webinar. The wildcard entries will be judged by committee members of the Early Career Network and the winner(s) goes through to the next round of the competition.
- Regional Heats are organised by the Geological Society Regional Groups for Q1 2026. Finishing no later than **End-March 2026**.
- The Wildcard Heat is organised by the ECN for **Thursday 23rd April 2026**.

Stage 2 - Semi Finals

- At the decision of the ECN committee, there may be a Semi-Final round added to reduce numbers going into The Final in order to ensure the duration of The Final is a manageable timeframe.
- All Regional Group Heat winners and the winner of the Wildcard round will be notified of this in advance following the submission of all Regional Heat Winners.
- Should a Semi-Final take place, this will be hosted by the ECN committee via webinar no later than the **6th May 2026**.

Stage 3 - National Final

- The final will take place in Burlington House, London, on **27th May 2026 from 5-8pm**.
- The event is free and in person attendance is welcomed, including friends and family.
- In the final, the presentations will be strictly 10 minutes, with up to 5 minutes allotted to judges and audience Q&A

For more information or to enter the competition, contact your local Regional Group or the ECN
GeoSocECN@gmail.com

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/membership/already-a-member/regional-groups-for-members/>
<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/careers-and-training/early-career-network/>