

Announcement Fast Forward Science 2024

# FAST FORWARD SCIENCE

**>>Competition announcement**

## 1 What is it about? [The competition]

Passion for research, for innovative multimedia formats and for communication - Fast Forward Science is all about people who are not only passionate about science themselves, but who can also inspire others. Every year, we award the best video and audio content from young researchers and newcomers on social media.

The Fast Forward Science online competition, which is endowed with a total of € 9.000, is a joint project of Wissenschaft im Dialog and the Stifterverband and has been held annually since 2013. The partner of the YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD is the Deutscher Zukunftspreis. Partner of the AUDIO AWARD is Pool Artists.

Awards will be presented to contributions that show current research, are presented in a comprehensible and target group-orientated way, and offer the so called "aha" effect. Entries that activate and involve their audience will receive special bonus points. The choice of topic is up to you. Entries to the main competition need to have been published online between 8 February 2023 and 12 March 2024 and be publicly accessible via a link.

Videos and audios can be submitted for three awards in the main competition: The YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD with the subcategories *long* and *short as* as well as the AUDIO AWARD. There are also two special prizes for newcomers: "Best Debut Audio" and "Best Debut Video".

The submission deadline for all awards is 12 March 2024 and the award ceremony will take place in summer 2024.

## 2 Who can take part? [Participants]

The YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD is aimed at students, doctoral candidates and postdocs up to 6 years after their doctorate. For the AUDIO AWARD there are no restrictions regarding the scientific or professional background of the entrants.

In addition, there are two special prizes for newcomers: "Best Debut Audio" and "Best Debut Video". For the special prizes, there are also no restrictions regarding the scientific or professional background of the submitters. However, the decisive factor is that the first published video or audio of the submitting channel must not be older than one year at the time of the competition deadline.

For all awards, teams of a maximum of six people can submit entries for the competition.

## 3 What sort of contributions are we looking for? [Formal participation requirements]

For Fast Forward Science 2024, we are looking for entertaining multimedia formats that deal with current research and science. Entries that meet the following formal criteria can take part in the competition:

- > **Type:** For the Main competition: A video or audio contribution published on the Internet between 8 February 2023 and 12 March 2024. For the special prizes for the best debut: A video or audio contribution published on the Internet between 13 March 2023 and 12 March 2024. The first entry of the channel through which this entry is submitted for one of the special prizes must not be older than one year at the closing date of the competition, but does not necessarily have to be the entry submitted.

- > **Platform:** Video formats must be uploaded to a social media platform and be publicly accessible via a link. The restriction to social media is lifted for audio formats.
- > **Number:** Each person or team may submit a maximum of three entries to the competition. However, only one entry per person or team can be among the winners in each category. This means that if several entries from the same person or team are among the winners within a category, only the best entry will be recognised and the others will be eliminated from the competition.
- > **Content:** A topic that is currently being researched. Scientific content should clearly take centre stage. Image films do not fulfil this requirement.
- > **Sources:** Fast Forward Science is all about science and research. We are therefore pleased if sources are mentioned in the article that support the statements of the articles and/or lead to further information. This is possible, for example, in the article description.
- > **Mention of the competition:** In the first sentence of the entry description, reference must be made to participation in the Fast Forward Science 2024 competition and the link [www.fastforwardscience.de](http://www.fastforwardscience.de) must be included. In addition, there is a hashtag for each award for which entries are submitted, which must also appear in the entry: #youngscientistaward, #audioaward, #bestdebutaudio or #bestdebutvideo. If the description of the entry can no longer be edited afterwards, the description must either be commented on and pinned under the entry or the entry must be reposted with the necessary information.
- > **Length:** In the category *short* category of the YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD, videos up to a length of 5 minutes are permitted. There is no length limit for the *long category of the YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD*, the AUDIO AWARD and the special prizes for the best debut, but entries should be as entertaining as possible. **Language:** German or English with German subtitles.
- > **Advertising:** Paid or unpaid product placements by or for third parties within the submitted contributions or in the contribution description are not permitted at Fast Forward Science. Excluded from this rule are Own products/inventions as well as advertising automatically placed by the platform. In case of doubt, the jury will decide.
- > **Existing co-operations:** The submitted contribution must not have been created in co-operation with media houses or companies and/or streaming services.
- > **Basic principles:** The content must be suitable for minors and free of third-party rights, must not infringe any personal rights and must not violate copyright law. It should also be free of violent and discriminatory content and not reproduce stereotypes.
- > **Physical and mental health:** For articles on suicide, rare diseases or other topics that focus on physical and mental health, it is important that those affected receive further information and help beyond the article. Therefore, emergency numbers or websites of organisations that provide further information should be mentioned in the article description. In addition, a trigger warning should be included at the beginning of the article so that those affected can protect themselves and trauma is not triggered again.

Contributions that are well-crafted, comprehensible and entertaining, that tell a story, contributions that surprise, that leave you wanting more, that are touching and authentic are rated particularly highly. As multimedia formats, they should work well online, i.e. ideally appeal to a target group that watches, comments on and shares them from start to finish.

## 4 What awards are there? [Awards]

### >> YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD

Scientific video contributions can be submitted to the YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD. The award is aimed at future players in science who want to communicate their research to as many people as possible. Whether you are new to the world of social media or have already made twenty videos, it is important that you explain your own scientific interest in a captivating way and convincingly demonstrate why your favourite research is relevant for tomorrow's society.

Important criteria are that young scientists are at the centre of the recording, that the content was developed by them and that science is at the centre.

The YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD is divided into two sub-categories. The length of the submitted entry determines which category you should enter:

#### > short

Short and sweet, compact, condensed: If you can communicate the most complex issues in less than 5 minutes, then you've come to the right place.

#### > long

A deep dive into research can sometimes take longer. If your video is more than 5 minutes, then you should submit it in this category.

The Deutscher Zukunftspreis, the Federal President's prize for technology and innovation, is a partner of the YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD.

### >> AUDIO AWARD

The AUDIO AWARD recognises interesting, comprehensible and target group-oriented contributions that do not require any visual material. The restriction to social media is lifted here, but the comment section of your platform of choice is activated. There is no length restriction.

Pool Artists is a partner of the AUDIO AWARD.

## 5 What are the special prizes? [Special prizes]

One of our principles is to support newcomers. So if your content is still in its infancy, you could be awarded with the special prize for the best debut! The decisive factor for participation is that the first post of your channel is not older than one year at the closing date of the competition (12 March 2024). Any contribution to your channel that you uploaded between 13 March 2023 and 12 March 2024 can be submitted. If you meet the entry requirements for one of the awards in the main competition, you may also submit your entry for the YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD or the AUDIO AWARD.

### >> Best Debut Audio

Are you new to the podcast game and your contributions are all about science? Then with a bit of luck you could be awarded with the special prize for the best debut in the audio category.

### >> Best Debut Video

Everyone has to start somewhere. If you are just building up your online presence and are still in the early stages of video production, you can apply for the special prize for the best debut in the video category.

## 6 What can be won? [Prizes]

In the main competition (YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD *short*, YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD *long* and AUDIO AWARD) prizes will be awarded to the top two contributions in each award category. The 1<sup>st</sup> place is endowed with € 2,000 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place with € 1,000.

For the special prizes (Best Debut Audio and Best Debut Video), the top two contributions of each category will be awarded non-material support in the form of further training and consulting offers: The winners will receive the offer of a content consultation with a Wisskomm professional of their choice (more information at [www.fastforwardscience.de](http://www.fastforwardscience.de)).

The non-material support can only be utilised by the persons specified when submitting the winning entry. The offers will take place online and will be scheduled in consultation with the winning party and the service providers. In the event of non-attendance, there is no entitlement to an alternative date.

### >> Award ceremony on the MS Wissenschaft

We invite one member of each winning team of all awards to an award ceremony. The date and location of the award ceremony will be announced in good time.

## 7 How can I take part? [Your Participation]

Between 16 January and 12 March 2024, contributions can be submitted to <https://fastforwardscience.de/teilnehmen/> for Fast Forward Science 2024.

## 8 How do I publish my contribution? [Checklist]

In order for all entries participating in the competition to be better connected with each other, it is requested that the following points be carried out when uploading the entry:

> In the first sentence of the post description, refer to the participation in the Fast Forward Science 2024 competition and add the link [www.fastforwardscience.de](http://www.fastforwardscience.de).

If this is not possible, comment on the text below your post and attach the comment or repost the post with the necessary information.

> Where possible, use the following keywords or hashtags: Fast Forward Science, competition, science, science, knowledge, Wisskomm, science in dialogue.

> Use the hashtag #FFSci and the hashtag of the award you are applying for (e.g. #YoungScientistAward, #AudioAward, #BestDebutAudio #BestDebutVideo) and link to us if your entry appears on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com) or X.

> Enable the comment section on your post so that a dialogue with your audience is possible.

> If possible, publish the article under the Creative Commons [licence CC-BY](#) so that it can be freely used and redistributed. [You can read why this is important here.](#)

If an entry meets the formal entry requirements and the legal requirements, it can be uploaded via a channel suitable for the award being pursued. All entries that meet the quality criteria will be published on the competition homepage [www.fastforwardscience.de](http://www.fastforwardscience.de), on the blog [www.fastforwardscience.de/blog/](http://www.fastforwardscience.de/blog/) and, if applicable, on other websites.

## 9 Who judges the entries? [The jury]

The entries will be judged by our jury members. They are all equally entitled to vote. The Fast Forward Science project team reserves the right to make a pre-selection for the jury based on the listed quality criteria. If entries do not meet these quality criteria, they will not be forwarded to the jury. The composition of the jury is subject to change.

This jury is made up of people with different backgrounds. These include representatives of traditional and new media, science communication and film:

- > Johanna Barnbeck, artistic researcher and creative consultant for science
- > Jean-Paul Bertemes, Head of Science in Society at the Font Nationale de la Recherche (FNR) Luxembourg
- > Leo Braun, Team Lead Social Media at Funk
- > Hans-Jürgen Bucher, media scientist and Distinguished Research Fellow at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
- > Christian Conradi, journalist and podcaster
- > Matthias Fejes, Deputy Press Spokesman of the TU Chemnitz
- > Harald Frater, publisher of scinexx.de and editorial director of wissenschaft.de
- > Viola Funk,
- > Julia Gantenberg, scientist and science communicator
- > Linus Günther, Managing Director at Klinkerfilm
- > Nele Heise, freelance consultant for digital media and communication
- > Anna Held, Community and Communications Manager Stifterverband
- > Wiebke Hoffmann, Programme Manager Stifterverband
- > Anett Holzheid, Scientific Officer at the ZMK | Centre for Art and Media
- > Sarah Kaehlert, Multimedia Producer at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel
- > Martin Kern, video journalist and consultant for moving image strategy
- > Lisa Leander, Consultant for the Promotion of Young Scientists at the Karlsruhe House of Young Scientists, KIT
- > Robert Lepenies, President of Karlsruhochschule International University and founder of the channel @TheTikTokScientist
- > Maria Lorenz-Bokelberg, Founder and Co-Managing Director of Pool Artists

- > Beatrice Lugger, Director of the National Institute for Science Communication, NaWik
- > Nadine Lux, Managing Partner science<sup>3</sup>
- > Daniel Meßner, podcaster and historian
- > David Peter-Gumbel, film enthusiast, Youtuber and consultant for moving image communication
- > Maximilian Peukert, Media Officer at the Social Science Research Centre Berlin
- > Alexander Pinker, future strategist, start-up enabler and new media specialist
- > Christiane A. Pudenz, Office of the Deutscher Zukunftspreis
- > Annette Schaeffgen, Head of the Berlin Office for Press and Public Relations at the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities
- > Lukas Sam Schreiber, podcaster and author
- > Rebecca Winkels, communications expert and Head of Communications at the German Red Cross
- > Alisa Zaugg, digital interaction project team member at Science et Cité

## 10 How are the entries judged? [Evaluation and jury process]

### >> Evaluation

In the run-up to the jury meeting, our jurors evaluate the entries according to the given criteria. We make sure that an entry is evaluated by at least three different jurors. This preliminary evaluation forms the basis for the jury meeting. In this session, all jurors have equal voting rights.

### >> Criteria for evaluation

Each entry is assessed by three judges. Between 1 and 10 points can be awarded for each criterion, with 1 being the lowest and 10 the highest score.

The evaluation criteria for the YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD and the special prize for the *Best Debut Video* are the following three, the sub-items are examples of the consideration:

#### CONTENT

- » Reference to current science and research
- » Relativisation and contextualisation of scientific findings
- » For the *Young Scientist Award*; additional presentation of social relevance
- » Correctness and accuracy in the presentation
- » Depth and content of the topic
- » Relevance: reference to current social issues or events
- » Identification of the author's own contribution: it is clear who the author of the findings/content being presented is
- » Reference to current science and research

#### COMPREHENSIBILITY

- » Target group-appropriate language
- » Illustration of technical terms through techniques such as analogies, examples, paraphrasing, visual graphics
- » A learning effect

#### STRUCTURE/TRACEABILITY

- » well thought out composition
- » coherent dramaturgy
- » Arguments are comprehensible and memorable
- » Focus on one information channel (no modal overload)

An average score is calculated from the assessments of these three criteria. In addition to the three evaluation criteria, the jury can award 0.5 points on the average score for the "activation" criterion:

#### ACTIVATION

- » The possibilities of the channel are exploited
- » Viewers are encouraged to enter into a discussion or dialogue
- » Direct address of the viewers

#### AUDIO AWARD

The evaluation criteria for the AUDIO AWARD and the special prize for the *Best Debut Audio* are the following four, the sub-items are examples for consideration:

#### CONTENT

- » Relation to current science and research
- » Relativization and contextualization of scientific knowledge
- » Correctness of presentation
- » Depth and content of the topic
- » Explosiveness: There is a connection to current social topics or events
- » Identification of the personal contribution: It becomes clear who the author of the findings/the presented content is.

#### COMPREHENSIBILITY

- » Target group-oriented language
- » Following a common thread
- » Learning effect

#### STRUCTURE/TRACEABILITY

- » thoughtful composition
- » conclusive dramaturgy
- » Arguments are understandable and memorable

In addition to the three content criteria, the presentation and accessibility of the contributions are also included in the evaluation. This criterion is weighted by a factor of 0.5.

#### PRESENTATION / ACCESSIBILITY

- » The article is attractively designed (cover, website embedding, ...)
- » The post is easy to navigate (chapter, content notes, script, ...)
- » Listeners are encouraged to enter into an exchange.



An average score is calculated from the assessments of these four criteria. In addition to these criteria, the jury can award 0.5 points on the average score for the "activation" criterion:

#### ACTIVATION

- » Listeners are encouraged to enter into an exchange
- » Addressing listeners directly

## 11 What happens when? [The process]

Entries for the competition can be submitted from 16 January 2024. The closing date for applications is 12 March 2024.

The jury meeting will take place in May 2024 and decide on the winners of the respective awards. The winners will be announced in June 2024.

The award ceremony will take place in summer 2024.

#### >> Overview of the planned programme

What?	When?
Start of the competition	16 January 2024
Closing date	12 March 2024
Jury meeting	May 2024
Announcement of the winners	June 2024
Award ceremony	Summer 2024

#### Contact us

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**Wissenschaft im Dialog (WiD)** is the science organisation for science communication in Germany. The non-profit organisation supports science and research with expertise on effective communication with society, develops new communication formats and encourages scientists to engage in dialogue with the public, including on controversial research topics. *WiD* raises awareness among citizens of the social significance of science and promotes understanding of research processes and findings. To this end, *WiD* organises discussions, school projects, exhibitions and competitions throughout Germany and operates online portals on science and science communication. *Science in Dialogue* was founded in 2000 by the major German science organisations on the initiative of the Stifterverband. Science-related foundations were added as partners. *WiD* is supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research through project funding. [www.wissenschaft-im-dialog.de](http://www.wissenschaft-im-dialog.de)