

Fast Forward Science 2025

The multimedia competition for science

Conditions of participation

The multimedia competition Fast Forward Science (hereinafter referred to as “the competition”) is a joint project of Wissenschaft im Dialog (hereinafter referred to as “the organizer”) and the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft. The Deutscher Zukunftspreis – Preis des Bundespräsidenten für Technik und Innovation is a partner of the YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD.

Multimedia entries for the competition can be submitted to www.fastforwardscience.de between February 3, 2025 and April 30, 2025.

§ 1

The organizer is not the provider of the contributions submitted by the participants. These contributions are provided exclusively by the respective user.

§ 2 Competition process

1) Submit an entry	03 February bis 30 April 2025
2) Evaluation of the entries by the expert juries	May – August 2025
3) Announcement of the winners	Fall 2025
4) Award ceremony	Fall 2025

§ 3 User account on social media platforms

If an entry fulfills the formal participation requirements (§6) and the legal requirements (§7), it can be published on the [webseite](#) be submitted. All submissions that meet the quality criteria will be published on the [webseite](#), on the [blog](#) as well as on other websites.

In order to publish a post, you must have an account on the relevant platform via which the post is uploaded. The general terms and conditions of use of the respective platform apply to this account and all uploaded contributions. The account can be deleted at any time. However, if the account is deleted during the duration of the competition, further participation in the competition is excluded for technical reasons.

All entries submitted must be publicly accessible for the duration of the competition via the link provided at the time of submission. If an entry is one of the prize winners and can no longer be

accessed via the link provided at the end of the competition, the organizer can upload the entry to www.fastforwardscience.de and integrate it into the competition website by uploading it to the CMS.

§ 4 Eligibility for participation

Natural and legal persons are eligible to participate. Eligibility depends on the award for which an entry is submitted: For the YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD, students, doctoral candidates and post docs up to 6 years after their doctorate are eligible. For the AUDIO AWARD and the special prizes, there are no restrictions on the scientific or professional background of the entrants. However, in the case of the special prizes, the first published contribution from the channel through which the entry is submitted must not be more than one year old at the closing date for the competition.

Team submissions of a maximum of six people are also possible in the name of a main contact person.

Employees and family members of the organizer and the project partners are not excluded from participation, but the entries they submit are not eligible to win and must be identified as such by the submitting persons.

Participants who are still minors at the time of submission (this applies to both the submitter and the other team members) must submit a written declaration of consent from their legal guardians. An entry can only be admitted to the competition once this has been submitted.

The organizer reserves the right to exclude participants from the competition who violate these conditions of participation. Participants who attempt to disrupt or manipulate the course of the competition and participants who attempt to gain an advantage through the use of unauthorized aids will also be excluded from participation. Upon request by the organizer, each prizewinner must prove their identity by submitting a copy of their identity card or a comparable document (passport, registration certificate). In the event that such proof is not provided on time, this may result in exclusion from the competition or loss of eligibility to win.

§ 5 Participation

The entry will be entered into the competition if it is submitted via the online form on the [competition website](#) within the application deadline. By submitting an entry, each participant accepts these conditions of participation, also on behalf of other group members if applicable.

Participation in the competition is free of charge for all awards.

In addition, the organizer reserves the right, at its own discretion, to exclude individual entries from the competition if they miss the point, are discriminatory, glorify violence or are not conducive to the competition. The organizer is not obliged to communicate the reasons for exclusion.

In the event that an entry violates applicable law, participants indemnify the organizer against any resulting liability towards third parties and agree to compensate the organizer for any resulting damages.

§ 6 Formal participation requirements

To submit an entry for the Fast Forward Science competition, it must fulfill the following formal criteria:

- > **Typ:** A video or audio contribution that was published on the Internet between March 14, 2024 and April 30, 2025. For the special prizes for Best Debut, the channel's first contribution must have been published no earlier than March 14, 2024. However, this does not necessarily have to be the submitted entry.
- > **Plattform:** 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.
- > **Quantity:** 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 judged and the others will be eliminated from the competition.
- > **Content:** A topic that is currently being researched. Scientific content should clearly take center stage. Image films do not meet 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.
- > **Mentioning the competition:** In the first sentence of the entry description, reference must be made to participation in the Fast Forward Science 2025 competition and

the link www.fastforwardscience.de must be included, as well as the hashtag #FFS. 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 short category of the YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD, videos up to a length of 3 minutes are permitted. For the long category of the YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD as well as the AUDIO AWARD and the special prizes for the best debut, there is no length limit, but the entries should be as entertaining as possible.
- > **Language:** German or English with German subtitles.
- > **Placements:** Paid or unpaid product placements by or for third parties within the submitted articles or in the article description are not permitted at Fast Forward Science. Excluded from this rule are Own products/inventions and advertising automatically placed by the platform.
- > **Existing collaborations:** The submitted contribution must not have been created in cooperation with media companies or organizations and/or streaming services.
- > **Fundamentals:** The content must be adult-friendly 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 organizations 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.

Detailed descriptions of the awards and the evaluation process can be found in the competition announcement and on the [website](#).

§ 7 Granting of rights by contest participants

In order to submit an entry for the competition, participants must agree to the following points during the registration process:

- > I have not used any GEMA-liable audio in my contribution.
- > I own all rights to the images, sounds and all third-party intellectual property that I use in my post, or have obtained permission to use them.

- › The contents of my contribution are suitable for young people.
- › I accept the rules of the competition as set out in the conditions of participation, the invitation to tender and the provisions on data protection.
- › I consent to Wissenschaft im Dialog gGmbH (WiD) processing my personal data in the context of the organization and implementation of the Fast Forward Science competition from the time of my submission until the end of the competition on 31.12.2025 in accordance with the statutory provisions to the extent necessary for the competition. This means in particular that WiD may contact me by e-mail about the progress of the competition and in the event of queries regarding the content of the submitted entry. Furthermore, WiD may use my personal data for public relations work for the competition if my entry reaches the finalist round, as well as for the statistical analysis and evaluation of the competition.

The organizer does not adopt the competition participants' entries as its own.

Notwithstanding the rights that participants grant to the respective platform on which they submit their entries in accordance with the General Terms of Use, they grant the organizer the rights necessary for the purpose of conducting the competition to the entries they submit as part of the competition free of charge, irrevocably, without restriction in terms of time and space. This includes, in particular, the right to make the entries publicly accessible, to edit the entries, to create a compilation of the entries together with other entries, if applicable, and to make this publicly accessible as well, and to publicly present the entries and the compilation.

You grant the Organizer the right to transfer or sublicense the rights you have granted here to third parties.

Participants confirm and warrant to the Organizer that they have all of the above-mentioned rights in relation to the contributions posted by them and that they can grant these to the Organizer without infringing the rights of third parties of any kind. If they themselves are not the rights holder with regard to the content posted, they guarantee that they have effectively obtained all necessary rights, licenses, permissions, consents, authorizations and powers.

In the event that the submitted entry violates the aforementioned requirements, the author releases the organizer from any resulting liability towards third parties and agrees to compensate the organizer for any resulting damages.

The organizer reserves the right to make a pre-selection for the jury based on the quality criteria.

§ 8 Evaluation by the juries

The entries will be judged by the jury members. They all have equal voting rights. The jury is made up of people with different backgrounds. These include representatives of traditional and new media, science communication, podcasts and film. The jury is subject to change. Each entry will be evaluated by several jurors. Between 1 and 10 points can be awarded per 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 for consideration:

CONTENT

- » Reference to current science and research
- » Relativization and contextualization of scientific findings
- » For the YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD, additional presentation of social relevance
- » Correctness in the presentation
- » Depth and content of the topic
- » Explosiveness: There is a reference to current social issues or events
- » Identification of the author's own contribution: It is clear who is the author of the findings/the content presented.

COMPREHENSIBILITY

- » Target group-oriented language
- » Illustration of technical terms using techniques such as analogies, examples, paraphrases, visual graphics
- » Learning effect available

STRUCTURE/COMPREHENSIBILITY

- » Sophisticated composition
- » Coherent dramaturgy

- » Arc of suspense is maintained
- » 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:

AKTIVATION

- » Possibilities of the channel are utilized
- » Viewers are encouraged to enter into an exchange

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:

§ 9 Prizes

For all awards and special prizes, one first and one second place will be awarded. The YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD and the AUDIO AWARD are endowed with € 2,000 each for first place and € 1,000 each for second place.

In addition, the organizer offers special prizes for Best Debut Audio and Best Debut Video. These special prizes are each awarded with non-material support in the form of further training or consultancy services.

The exact descriptions of the awards can be found in the announcement or on the [website](#).

>> Award ceremony

We invite one member of each award-winning team of the awards and special prizes to the Fast Forward Science Award Ceremony. Excerpts from the winning entries will be shown at the award ceremony.

§ 10 Prize distribution

In the event of a cash prize, the respective prize amount will be paid out in full exclusively to the competition participant (natural or legal person) who submitted the entry. The

participant in the competition assures that he/she is entitled to receive the prize, in particular by granting the rights under §7. Other claims by third parties or other team members cannot be considered by the organizer, but will only be forwarded to the respective competition participant.

The non-material support in the form of further training or consulting offers can only be taken up 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.

§ 11 Liability

With regard to the implementation of the competition, the organizer is liable without limitation, regardless of the legal grounds, in cases of injury to life, limb or health, for intent, fraudulently concealed defects and quality guarantees. The organizer is also liable for damages resulting from a grossly negligent breach of duty by the organizer or an intentional or grossly negligent breach of duty by legal representatives or vicarious agents. The organizer is also liable in the event of a breach of a material contractual obligation ("cardinal obligation", i.e. an obligation whose fulfillment is essential for the proper execution of the contract and on whose compliance the other party may regularly rely). In the event of simple negligence, however, this liability shall be limited to the typical damages foreseeable at the time of conclusion of the contract.

The above provisions do not affect the liability of the organizer on the basis of the law on liability for defective products.

In all other cases, the liability of the organizer is expressly excluded. The provisions of this § 11 also apply in favor of companies affiliated with the organizer in accordance with §§ 15 ff. German Stock Corporation Act.

§ 12 Other

Should individual provisions of these conditions of participation be or become invalid, inadmissible or unenforceable, this shall not affect the validity of the remaining conditions of participation. The law of the Federal Republic of Germany shall apply. Legal recourse is excluded.