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In 1904 David Syme of Melbourne presented £3,000 to the University to establish an annual prize for the best original research work in Biology, Physics, Chemistry or Geology. Preference will be given to work of value to the industrial and commercial interests of Australia.

The value of the award in 2011 is approximately \$8,000, plus a bronze medallion. The prize will be awarded at the Dean's Awards ceremony in 2012.

Eligibility

Applications are welcome from researchers associated with any Australian university and from researchers without university connections, subject to the following restrictions:

- Professors and researchers outside universities who have attained a level of seniority comparable to a university professor are not eligible to apply.
- The submitted research must have been produced in Australia during the preceding two years.
- Candidates for the prize must have spent a minimum of five full years out of the last seven years in Australia.

Early career researchers or researchers with interrupted careers who can display superb work undertaken in the preceding two years are welcome to apply.

Selection criteria

Your submitted record of original research must consist of papers published in the two years immediately preceding the closing date. You also have the option of adding manuscripts suitable for publication that embody unpublished results of work you have carried out during the same period.

Your submitted research record may be in whole, or in part, the embodiment of work carried out in collaboration with others, whether or not the collaborators are candidates for the prize. You must provide a brief and clear explanation of your role and relative contribution to any multi-author publications. Examiners will take such steps as they think necessary to assess the value of each candidate's share of joint work.

If you consider that knowledge of your previous work is necessary for the correct evaluation of your two-year record, you may also submit a brief published or unpublished account of this prior work.

If two or more people who are eligible for the prize want to apply in respect of research which is wholly their joint work, they should submit a record and they will be judged as though they are one candidate. If the prize is awarded for joint work, the candidates will each receive a medal and will equally share in the prize money.

If two or more records of original research of equal merit are submitted and the examiners are unable to determine which of them constitutes the most important contribution to the relevant branch of Science, the prize may be shared between the candidates submitting such records or original research.

An application form is available on the Faculty of Science scholarship website at:
<http://www.science.unimelb.edu.au/scholarships> and searching for 'David Syme'

Closing date –5.00pm on 9 December 2011

Please submit your application, noting requirements for the submission format, to:

Linda Richardson

Faculty of Science

Old Geology Building

The University of Melbourne VIC 3010

For enquiries: T: +61 3 8344 5949

E: lric@unimelb.edu.au