

Nomination Guidelines: The 31st ICR Award for Young Scientists (FY2026)

The 31st ICR Award for Young Scientists is open for nominations from members of the ICR. Detailed below are the general guidelines of the award.

1. What does the Award Acknowledge?

The ICR Award for Young Scientists is designed to honor early-career researchers who have recently made an exceptional contribution to scientific discovery and the literature in the field of chemistry or chemically-related science, and who exhibit the potential for continuing at a high level of scientific endeavor and leadership.

2. Eligibility

Researchers affiliated with ICR who are under the age of 40 as of March 31, 2027. Early career researchers of all nationalities are welcome to apply, but special consideration will be given to overseas researchers at ICR to accelerate their research efforts.

3. How to Apply

3.1 Nomination Packet

Nomination packet is downloadable from ICR website:
https://www.kuicr.kyoto-u.ac.jp/sites/about/greeting/kaken_prize/

The nomination packet should include:

- * **A nomination paper** (a reprint or a photocopy) published or accepted in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, which demonstrates original research that the candidate has led within the past three years in ICR (including collaborative research with external or internal researchers of Kyoto University). Alternatively, a comprehensive summary of the candidate's long ongoing research effort may be nominated. A general review paper or commentary on a research discipline will not be counted as a valid nomination paper unless the paper was published upon request or by invitation.
- * **A statement** explaining the significance and impact of the nominated paper and an outlook for further study (in A-4 sized paper, ~500 Japanese characters or ~250 English words). If the nominated paper is a comprehensive summary of the candidate's research, clearly state the reason for nominating the summary in lieu of a decent peer-reviewed paper. If a co-authored paper is to be nominated, specify the candidate's role played in and his/her contribution to the published research.
- * **Names of at least three ICR laboratories with relevant expertise** whose faculty members can be potential evaluators of the nominated paper. The candidate's own laboratory name should be eliminated from the list in all fairness.
- * **A cover sheet** including the title of the nominated paper, candidate's name, birthday, position held at ICR, and contact information.

3.2 Nomination Packet Submission

Please upload the PDF file to the receiving folder on ICR website:
https://www.kuicr.kyoto-u.ac.jp/sites/about/greeting/kaken_prize/

3.3 Nomination Deadline: Wednesday, September 30, 2026

4. Evaluation and Selection

ICR faculty members (professor and associate professor levels) from the laboratories with relevant expertise will review and screen their assigned nominations, and select winners.

5. Prize

Award winners will receive an award certificate and an extra prize. Winners will have the privilege of presenting their award-winning research on the occasion of ICR Annual Workshop slated for February 2027.

ICR Director: Yuichi Shimakawa
ICR Research Planning Committee

