

Körber European Science Prize

Guidelines

Since 1985, the Körber European Science Prize has been presented annually by the Körber-Stiftung, located in Hamburg, Germany. Initiated by the entrepreneur and founder Kurt A. Körber (1909 – 1992), the Körber Prize is one of the most important science prizes awarded in Europe and is currently endowed with € 1,000,000.

The following guidelines clarify the intentions pursued by the Körber Prize and the kind of scientist sought as a prize winner. They serve as an orientation for members of the Körber Prize Committees, for third-party institutions involved in the nomination process, and for the public.

1 Selection criteria

- 1.1 The Körber Prize is awarded annually to an outstanding scientist who is actively conducting research in Europe. This includes researchers who are not originally from a European country, but whose research is based in Europe.
- 1.2 The prize alternates annually between the life sciences and the physical sciences (including computational sciences).
- 1.3 Prize winners should be recognized as leaders in their fields and must have made at least one research breakthrough that has had a significant scientific impact. Scientific excellence is the primary selection criterion for the Körber Prize.
- 1.4 The prize winners' research must have potential for application and/or global relevance.
- 1.5 Prize winners must be active scientists with clear potential for further development.
- 1.6 Prize winners must be working on innovative research projects that could be significantly advanced with the funding provided by the Körber Prize within a timeframe of three to five years.
- 1.7 Prize winners should be able to arouse public interest and communicate their work to a scientifically interested public.

2 Rights and responsibilities of the prize winner

- 2.1 The Körber Prize is endowed with € 1,000,000.
- 2.2 The prize winner is responsible for deciding on the use of the prize money. He or she is accountable only to the Körber-Stiftung.
- 2.3 The prize winner must use 85% (€ 850,000) of the prize money for research purposes within a period of three to five years. The respective research projects must be located in a European country.
- 2.4 The prize winner may spend 10% of the prize money (€ 100,000) at his or her own discretion.

- 2.5 The prize winner must use 5% of the prize money (€ 50,000) for science communication and public outreach. The organisation of outreach activities is the responsibility of the prize winner and should be coordinated with Körber-Stiftung.
- 2.6 The prize winner is expected to give a public lecture (“Körber Lecture”), preferably in Hamburg, and to participate in a public panel discussion at the KörberForum in Hamburg. The exact date will be mutually agreed between the prize winner and the Körber-Stiftung.

3 Nomination and selection

- 3.1 The selection process is conducted by a Search Committee for each category (life sciences or physical sciences) and a Trustee Committee. The Committees are composed of internationally recognized scientists appointed by the Körber-Stiftung.
- 3.2 Nominations may be made by members of the respective Search Committee, the Trustee Committee, former Körber Prize winners and eligible third-party European research institutions. Unsolicited or self-nominations will not be accepted.
- 3.3 Nominators are encouraged to consider both gender balance and geographic diversity, especially for nominees outside their own geographic area. Nominators should provide the names of potential referees at the time of submission.
- 3.4 The Search Committee will select a short list of approximately eight candidates from the long list of all nominees submitted, typically through an online voting process.
- 3.5 The Körber-Stiftung contacts the short-listed candidates, requesting the submission of their CV and a research proposal. The Körber-Stiftung also contacts the referees. Referees are asked to provide an assessment of the candidates and their proposal. At least two reviews are required for each candidate.
- 3.6 The Search Committee identifies and ranks the most promising candidates (typically three) based on the reviews and the documents provided by the candidates, typically in an online meeting.
- 3.7 The Search Committee’s chairperson provides the Trustee Committee with a summary report on the recommended candidates. On this basis, the Trustee Committee selects the prize winner, typically in an online meeting.