

1 Purpose/Vision

To further the public good, the FRIB Achievement Award for Early Career Researchers recognizes outstanding original contributions to the field of nuclear science through work at or relating to FRIB, performed by scientists early in their careers. The annual award consists of a plaque with the awardee's name and institution, and \$3,000 for participant support to attend the annual Low Energy Community Meeting, receive the award, and give an invited plenary presentation on the awarded work. Two awards will be given annually, one for primarily experimental research, and one for primarily theoretical research. The FRIB award will be presented by the FRIB Laboratory based on selection by the FRIB Users Organization Executive Committee (UOEC) and the FRIB Theory Alliance Executive Board (TAEB).

2 Eligibility Criteria

Nominations are open to scientists in experimental or theoretical nuclear science or related fields who are no more than six years past their Ph.D. award date ¹ at the time of the nomination deadline. Graduate students working toward their Ph.D. are eligible. Nominations must highlight scientific work with a strong connection to FRIB science. In particular, nominees should have:

1. Performed an experiment at FRIB or developed a piece of equipment or new technique strongly beneficial to FRIB science; or
2. Made a substantive and original contribution to theory that is strongly beneficial to FRIB science.

Nominees should be active members of the FRIB Users Organization and/or the FRIB Theory Alliance at the time of the nomination. Nominees from previous years may be nominated again, but a previous winner is no longer eligible.

3 Benefits to Awardees

Each awardee will receive a plaque with the awardee's name and institution, and \$3,000 (minus applicable taxes) designated as participant support. The award will be presented at the annual LECM. The \$3,000 award would be issued as a stipend² to support the cost of attending the annual Low Energy Community Meeting.

4 Selection Committee

The selection committee consists of members of the UOEC and/or TAEB. Members of the UOEC are elected by the FRIB Users Organization membership. Members of the TAEB are elected by the FRIB Theory Alliance membership. The FRIB UOEC Secretary and the FRIB-TAEB Director will assemble suitable Selection Committees each year on or before March 15 (two weeks from the nomination deadline). Additional committee members may be drawn from the wider Community in order to ensure a balanced representation of expertise and organizations.

¹ Or, equivalently, have been active for six years or less in the field since obtaining their Ph.D., for nominees who may have had an interruption in their career path.

² If the awardee is an MSU employee, the payment will be issued via the MSU payroll process. Note that for MSU employees, a general fund account cannot be used to pay the stipend or pay for the plaque.



5 Nomination Requirements

The nominator must provide one of the three required letters of support. Self-nominations are not accepted. The submission package must include:

- The nominee's and nominator's contact information,
- Specification of whether the nomination is to be considered in the Theory or the Experiment area,
- A one-page summary by the nominee of the contribution and its impact on FRIB,
- Three letters of support as described,
- An up-to-date CV of the nominee, and
- Copies of up to three related publications in support of the nomination. Manuscripts that are not yet published but are complete and have been approved by all of the listed co-authors may be submitted in lieu of a published paper.

All documents must be submitted in English via the web form on the FRIB Users webpage. The annual deadline for submission will be on March 14 at 11 pm ET, and will be announced via the FRIB Users Organization mailing list and posted on the FRIB Users Organization website (<https://fribusers.org>) and the FRIB-TA website (<https://fribtheoryalliance.org>). Nominations are valid for one year. Nomination packages that do not contain the required components will be ineligible.

6 Details of Selection Process

The UOEC Secretary and TAEB Director, both of whom may serve on the selection committees, will assign two subject matter experts from the relevant committee to each submission. Each subject matter expert shall be assigned an equal number of submissions except in extenuating circumstances. A subject matter expert may not be assigned to a nomination package to which they have contributed in any way. The subject matter expert will be responsible for reading the nomination packages assigned to them and providing a preliminary score from 1-10 in the categories specified above, with 10 being the highest and 5 being average.

The FRIB UOEC Secretary may choose the means by which scores are recorded.

The FRIB UOEC Secretary will then call a meeting to discuss the preliminary scores. Contributors to a nomination package must recuse themselves from the discussion of their nominee's submission. Being a co-author on a paper in a nomination package is not equivalent to being a contributor, unless the coauthor contributed significantly to the work (DOE and NSF rules on conflict of interest apply). Any modification to the preliminary scores must be submitted prior to the end of this meeting. These scores will be used to provide a ranking of the candidates in each category (Theory and Experiment), the top-ranked candidate then being chosen as the recommended awardee by the Selection Committee. In the case of tied scores that cannot be broken by the Selection Committee, an additional vote will be cast by the FRIB Manager for User Relations. The Selection Committee makes their awardee recommendation to the FRIB Scientific Director and FRIB Laboratory Director. The FRIB Laboratory Director will accept or reject the recommendation, and notifies the Chair of the FRIB UOEC.

Candidates will be evaluated on a scale from 1 to 10 (with 10 being the highest and 5 being average) in the following six categories:



1. Connection to FRIB science,
2. Scientific impact,
3. Technical innovation,
4. The nominee's contribution to the work,
5. Additional contributions, such as efforts related to workforce development and supporting a welcoming and respectful environment that fosters broad participation in science.

As outlined above, the primary selection criterion is an outstanding scientific contribution to FRIB science, which is captured in the selection criteria. If candidates are tied, or are very close in score, the selection committee will also weigh the preference to recognize candidates in non-permanent positions when making their rankings. The scoring as described above will be used in the selection of the awardee.

The Award(s) may be withheld if a super-majority (>75%) of the Selection Committee judges the candidate pool to be insufficiently broad, diverse, or meritorious.

Successful awardees will be notified by the Chair of the FRIB UOEC by June 5. Nominators whose candidates are not selected will be notified by the Secretary of the FRIB UOEC by the same date.

Violation of the FRIB Code of Conduct will be grounds for ruling a nominee ineligible.

Nominees and award holders are expected to meet standards of professional conduct and integrity as described in the APS Ethics Guidelines and the FRIB Code of Conduct.

Questions regarding the nomination requirements or selection process should be addressed to the Chair of the FRIB UOEC and/or FRIB TAEB Director.

7 Contact Information

Questions regarding the nomination requirements or selection process should be addressed to the Chair of the FRIBUOEC and/or FRIB TAEB Director. The documents should be emailed to the FRIBUOEC Secretary.

FRIB UOEC Chair (2025): Andrea Richard (richardal@ohio.edu)

FRIB TAEB Director (2025): Calvin Johnson (cjohnson@sdsu.edu)

FRIB UOEC Secretary (2025): Wei Jia Ong (ong10@llnl.gov)

