Sarah Jones Award – 2026 Nominations

Award Overview and Criteria

The RDA is pleased to announce the '**The Sarah Jones Award for exceptional contribution to fostering collaboration in Open Science**'. This bi-annual award is awarded to a nominee that is **recognised for the below criteria:**

Nomination criteria

1. Open Science (including but not limited to education & training, research data management & FAIR data) contribution. Exceptional contribution to fostering collaboration in Open Science.

2. Positive impact: Showing evidence of positive change as a result of interactions on an organisational, individual and/or community level.

3. Nominee characteristics should outline the career level (Early Career nominations are strongly encouraged), an otherwise unrecognised contribution to the community in open science. Furthermore, demonstration of contribution within the RDA community is welcomed, but not obligatory.

4. Nominees from geographical areas with little or difficult development of open science are strongly encouraged.

Nominations Process

The RDA community is invited to suggest nominations for this award providing details on:

1. Nominee contact details

2. Why they should receive the award:

   - What have they contributed to Open Science and community-driven activities?

   - What impact has their work had outside of their organisation, within their scientific/research community, between community members?

   - What is special about them and their work?

3. How they fulfil the nomination criteria, mandatory and desirable.

4. Support letter from the nominator and one other supporter.

Nominate a candidate for the 2026 award via <u>this form</u>.
(Deadline: 14th June 2026)

Selection

An independent selection panel, composed of invited RDA community members, will assess the nominations received and shortlist up to three candidates to be contacted and interviewed. The winner will be announced during the <u>RDA 27th Plenary Meeting</u> in October 2026. The winner will receive a physical award, a certificate, and be included on the RDA Sarah Jones Award website listing with details of their exceptional contribution. Finally, the winner will have access to a fund to be invested in activities relevant to the winning activities (for example, further capacity building, cross community collaboration, community animation and engagement, etc.).

Sarah Jones Award Selection Panel

Ingrid Dillo (DANS), **Kevin Ashley (**DCC), **Rosie Hicks (**ARDC), **Cathrin Stove** (GEANT)

Criteria for shortlisting and selection

The criteria and weighting for shortlisting and selection are:

- Each nomination will be individually assessed by 3 different members of the selection panel based on the scoring criteria below.

- The three assessment scores and comments will be merged into one evaluation report and the nominees will be ranked according to their scores.

- Weighting criteria will be assigned to the total average score of the three assessments.

- The top three ranked nominations will be contacted for interview by the complete or a sub-section of the selection panel.

Assessment Scoring & weighting

Three overarching criteria are assessed: 1) Excellence; 2) Impact and 3) Nominee Status.

Each criteria will be scored between 0 (very poor) and 5 (Excellent) (and 0.5 scores are admitted) by the individual evaluator. The score should be accompanied by a note on the assessment and

rationale for the score assigned. Upon receipt of the three individual evaluations, they will be merged, scores totalled and the weighting criteria below assigned to obtain the ranking list.

Excellence (35%)

- Concrete evidence of contribution to Open Science on a cross border and / or community level

- Community involvement and engagement

Impact (45%)

- Proven impact on individuals, organisations, and / or communities

Nominee Characteristics (20%)

- Career level (Early Career nominations are strongly encouraged)

- Geographic location (i.e. in some areas this is more challenging)

- Otherwise unrecognised contribution to community in open science

- RDA community member (desirable criteria, but note that this award is open to all and non-RDA members are particularly welcome)

Contact

For more information about the Sarah Jones Award, please contact the RDA at **sjaward@rd-alliance.org**

Award Timeline

Phase	Date
Call for nominations opens	14 October 2025
Deadline for nomination submission	14 June 2026
Selection & Shortlisting	14 June – 9 July 2026
Shortlist interviews	10 July – 3 August 2026
Panel deliberation	3-8 August 2026
Announcement preparation	28 August – 6 October 2026
Award announcement	6 – 8 October 2026