



AMASA 2026 PRIZES FOR EMERGING SCIENCE AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

November 2026, Nairobi, Kenya



1. ABOUT THE PRIZES

The AMASA 2026 Prizes for Emerging Science and Societal Impact honour African scientists whose research demonstrates originality and societal relevance. Anchored in the AMASA 2026 theme, “*Securing Africa’s Digital Transformation: AI, Cybersecurity and Sustainability*,” the prizes recognize research that advances knowledge and makes science and technology accessible and relevant to society.

Two prizes will be awarded:

- **AMASA 2026 Emerging Science Prize** – This prize is open to early-career scientists who obtained their PhD within the seven years preceding the nomination deadline. It recognizes innovative thinking, novel methodologies and fresh approaches to persistent or emerging challenges. [\[Emerging Science Prize\]](#)
- **AMASA 2026 Societal Impact Prize** – This prize is open to established scientists who obtained their PhD more than seven years before the nomination deadline. It recognizes research that has contributed to public understanding, evidence-informed policy or practical solutions for sustainable development. [\[Societal Impact Prize\]](#)

Eligibility is based on the official PhD award date and the published nomination deadline of 15 October 2026.

Nominees in both categories must demonstrate intellectual merit and the ability to make science accessible, relevant and transformative for Africa’s progress. *Each recipient will receive a commemorative plaque. The prizes do not carry a monetary award.*

Through these prizes, AMASA 2026 reaffirms the commitment of NASAC, KNAS and NRF Kenya to advancing a culture of inquiry that bridges disciplines, generations and audiences. It positions science as both a tool of discovery and a voice for development.

2. SELECTION CRITERIA AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

Both prizes will be assessed against five common criteria. The emphasis and weighting will reflect the purpose of each prize and the nominee’s career stage.

Criterion	Emerging Science Prize	Societal Impact Prize
1. Scientific Merit and Originality	35% – Rigorous and original research demonstrating innovative thinking, novel methods or fresh approaches.	20% – Rigorous and credible research underpinning the claimed societal impact.
2. Societal Relevance and Impact	25% – Relevance to African priorities and clear potential to benefit society.	35% – Demonstrated influence on policy, practice, technology, public understanding or community well-being.
3. Science Communication and Knowledge Sharing	15% – Ability to communicate research clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.	20% – Effective translation of research for policymakers, practitioners and the public.
4. Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Engagement	15% – Participation in research across disciplines, institutions, countries or sectors.	15% – Leadership in sustained interdisciplinary, institutional, regional or cross-sector partnerships.
5. Integrity and Professional Conduct	10% – Ethical research practice, inclusivity and responsible professional conduct.	10% – Ethical leadership, mentorship, inclusivity and contribution to a positive research culture.
TOTAL	100%	100%

Indicative evidence may include peer-reviewed publications, research outputs, citations where appropriate, new methods or technologies, policy influence, practical applications, public-engagement activities, collaborative initiatives, mentorship and institutional references.

Evidence will be assessed relative to the nominee’s career stage, discipline, opportunities and research context.



3. ELIGIBILITY

- i. Open to scientists of African nationality working within or outside Africa.
- ii. Nominees for the Emerging Science Prize must have obtained their PhD within the seven years preceding the nomination deadline.
- iii. Nominees for the Societal Impact Prize must have obtained their PhD more than seven years before the nomination deadline.
- iv. Nominations may be submitted by academies of science, universities or recognised research institutions.
- v. Self-nominations are not permitted.
- vi. Each nominee may be considered for only one prize category.

4. SELECTION PROCESS

For AMASA 2026, a time-bound, nomination-by-invitation process will be used to ensure timely and credible selection.

- **Nominations** will be invited from selected institutions, including NASAC member academies, the InterAcademy Partnership, universities, research institutes, AUDA-NEPAD, the International Science Council, KNAS and NRF Kenya. Each invited institution may submit **one nomination per prize category**.
- **Nominations** will be submitted through a concise online form. Nominating institutions must provide essential evidence addressing the relevant eligibility and selection criteria.
- The **AMASA 2026 Scientific Committee**, appointed by NASAC, will assess eligible nominations using the approved scoring framework. Committee members must declare any conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from assessing affected nominations.
- The Committee will deliberate and recommend one recipient for each prize. Its recommendations will be submitted to the NASAC Board for endorsement.
- The recipients of the **Emerging Science Prize** and the **Societal Impact Prize** will be announced and honoured during AMASA 2026, taking place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 10 to 12 November 2026.

The prizes form part of NASAC's 25th Anniversary celebrations. This streamlined process maintains transparency, rigour and merit while recognizing the shorter preparation period for AMASA 2026.