

25 March 2026

Call for Nominations of Young Scientists as Members of the South African Young Academy of Science 2026

The South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS), founded in September 2011, is calling for applications for new members. This letter is to request nominations of outstanding young scientists who may be elected as members of SAYAS. In the founding year (2011), 20 young scientists were elected. 10 new members have been elected progressively on an annual basis. In December 2025, SAYAS amended its constitution to increase the number of new members elected annually. From 2026 onwards, 20 new members will be elected to the young academy. After five years of service, members will become alumni and will be replaced by newly elected members.

To qualify for nomination, a candidate should meet the following criteria:

1. Be in possession of a PhD or equivalent degree in any field of scientific enquiry, where science is defined broadly as encompassing natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities, medical sciences and engineering;
2. Be under the age of 40 years and within 7 years from award of a PhD at the time of nomination. Nomination of candidates who deviate from this profile requires additional motivation;
3. Evidence of scientific excellence through a proven publication record, and receipt of honours and awards;
4. Evidence of activities demonstrating service to society;
5. Be willing to **actively** work towards achieving the goals of SAYAS as well as a commitment to attending the Annual General Meetings (AGM).

Institutions/associations/individuals may nominate more than one candidate. Self-nominations shall also be considered, provided that the nomination is endorsed by the nominee's institution. Please use the attached 2026 form to apply or nominate suitable candidates. Please assist us in circulating the call widely to your databases and networks.

Applicants are requested to complete the nomination form and send the completed form together with the supporting documents at once to the SAYAS Secretariat at kholani@assaf.org.za by **30 June 2026**.

Late submissions will not be considered.

Warm regards,



Prof Maurine Musie
Co-chair
University of Pretoria



Dr Gold Matlou
Co-chair
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