

# FALLING WALLS FOUNDATION

## GLOBAL CALL FOR NOMINATIONS — THE SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR 2021

The value of breakthrough research has hardly ever been more evident as it is the groundbreaking work of scientists that will allow us to overcome the pandemic. To help make the Falling Walls Conference 2021 the celebration that excellent science deserves, we are asking leading academics and academic institutions, universities, research organisations, companies, private and public research centres, academies, research funders, foundations, and individuals to **nominate the latest breakthroughs, outstanding science projects, and bright minds behind them** in our 10 categories:

- 1 Life Sciences
- 2 Physical Sciences
- 3 Engineering and Technology
- 4 Social Sciences and Humanities
- 5 Art and Science
- 6 Future Learning (formerly Digital Education)
- 7 Science and Innovation Management
- 8 Emerging Talents (Falling Walls Lab)
- 9 Science Start-ups (Falling Walls Venture)
- 10 Science Engagement (Falling Walls Engage)

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE – THE FOUR STEPS

#### STEP 1: NOMINATIONS

Please submit a short nomination (approx. 500 characters and contact information) via our website by **15 June 2021**. The submitted nomination will be reviewed and the Nominee will be contacted directly for further details.

#### STEP 2: FINALISTS

If your Nominee is selected, they will then become a Falling Walls Finalist. All Finalists will be officially announced on our website.

#### STEP 3: WINNERS

Our distinguished juries, chaired by Helga Nowotny, Professor Emerita of the European Research Council, will select 10 Winners each for categories 1-7. Through the respective pre-selection processes, 100 Winners for category 8, 25 Winners for category 9 and 20 Winners for category 10 will be invited to the Falling Walls Pitches on 7 November, where they will receive the opportunity to pitch their work live in front of our distinguished juries. Each Winner will also have the opportunity to feature their winning project in a short video in our content library. A detailed briefing will be provided for this purpose.

#### STEP 4: THE SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR

The juries will select the Science Breakthroughs of the Year from the Winners of each category. On 9 November, the Breakthroughs of the Year will receive the opportunity to present their work to a global audience on the grand Falling Walls stage in Berlin.

You are encouraged to distribute this Call for Nominations within your networks. We highly appreciate your support.




#### CONTACT

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# FALLING WALLS FOUNDATION

## SEE YOU AGAIN IN BERLIN — SAVE THE DATE 7–9 NOV 2021

After a fully digital Falling Walls Conference in 2020, we look forward to welcoming the people who are finding solutions to the greatest challenges of our time and thus contributing to a better world back to Berlin on the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. **Please save the date: 7–9 November 2021.**

As the pandemic has taught the scientific community to put more emphasis on dialogue with society, we have decided to add a full day of debates and encounters to our conference. Here is our new schedule:

### 7 NOVEMBER

#### FALLING WALLS PITCHES

A day of live pitches in the following categories:

Emerging Talents (Falling Walls Lab) for the next generation of outstanding innovators.

Science Engagement (Falling Walls Engage) for inspiring science engagers.

Science Start-Ups (Falling Walls Venture) for the science start-up community.

### 8 NOVEMBER

#### FALLING WALLS CIRCLE – CHALLENGES AND FORESIGHT

Our new format to connect science and society. Researchers, policymakers, and business leaders, and society discuss the biggest challenges we face and the foresight that scientific breakthroughs can offer.

### 9 NOVEMBER

#### FALLING WALLS SCIENCE BREAKTHROUGHS OF THE YEAR

On the anniversary of the historic fall of the Berlin Wall, the grand finale provides a stage for outstanding research presented in inspiring presentations. For the 13th time, “the brightest minds on the planet” (BBC) will showcase their work.

The Falling Walls Conference is part of the Berlin Science Week with over 100 events from 1–10 Nov 2021. Since its first annual meeting on 9 November 2009, the 20th anniversary of the peaceful fall of the Berlin Wall, the Falling Walls Conference has continuously developed into a world forum for science. Some of the most important researchers and thinkers of our time gather at Falling Walls to discuss breakthroughs with global leaders in science, politics, business, and the media, answering the core question of the Falling Walls Conference: “Which are the next walls to fall in science and society?”

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