

LMS Hirst Prize and Lectureship Guidelines

Introduction

The Hirst Prize Lectureship is named after Thomas Archer Hirst, who was the London Mathematical Society's (LMS) fifth President, holding the office between 1872 and 1874. The Hirst Prize and Lectureship for the History of Mathematics is awarded for contributions to the study of the history of mathematics. The prize will be awarded in recognition of original and innovative work in the history of mathematics, which may be in any medium.

The Hirst Prize and Lectureship was first awarded in 2015 as part of the Society's 150th Anniversary Celebration with the Lectureship taking place as part of a Society Meeting in April 2016. The next Hirst Prize will be awarded in 2021 with the Lectureship due to take place as part of a Society Meeting in 2022.

These guidelines refer to the Hirst Lectureship, which forms part of the prize. The guidelines are for the Society Lectures and Meetings Committee and local organisers and include information on:

1. The Format of the Hirst Lectureship
2. The Nomination Process
3. The Itinerary
4. Funding Information
5. Practical Information

1. The Format of the Hirst Lectureship

The Hirst Lectureship forms part of the Hirst Prize and Lectureship, which is awarded for contributions to the study of the history of mathematics.

The Hirst Lectureship is a lecture given by the winner(s) of the Hirst Prize and Lectureship at a Society Meeting, which normally takes place in the year after the award at a venue of the Hirst Prize-winner's choice.

2. LMS-BSHM Hirst Prize and Lectureship Nomination Process

The Prize is awarded jointly with the British Society for the History of Mathematics (BSHM). The Joint LMS-BSHM Prizes Committee seeks nominations from the mathematical community and may also put forward its own suggestions.

Criteria for nominations include:

1. The prize may be open to any mathematician or historian of mathematics, subject to the restrictions below. The prize may also be awarded to joint-winners.

2. The prize may not be awarded to anyone who has previously won the De Morgan Medal, Pólya Prize, Fröhlich Prize, Naylor Prize and Lectureship, Senior Whitehead Prize, Senior Anne Bennett Prize, or the Christopher Zeeman medal
3. In any given year, the members of the Hirst Prize Committee, and the members of the LMS and BSHM Councils, shall be ineligible for the award of the prize.
4. The Prize may not be restricted to mathematicians or historians of mathematics working in any specific field or area of mathematics or history of mathematics. To avoid doubt, the prize shall not be restricted to contributions to the study of the history of British mathematics, and there is no requirement for the winner to be based in the UK

The administration of the prize shall alternate between the LMS and the BSHM offices. The organisation of the Hirst Lecture shall be undertaken by the LMS only. Nominations should be submitted by 31 December Year X-1 for consideration at the February Meeting of Prizes Committee.

At its February meeting, Hirst Prize Committee will review nominations and seek references. A final decision about the Prize-winner will be made by Hirst Prizes Committee at its meeting in May with the formal announcement made at the General Meeting of the Society in late June/July in London.

3. *The Programme*

The itinerary shall be formed by Society Lectures and Meetings Committee in consultation with the Hirst Lecturer.

The Chair of the Society Lectures and Meetings Committee will write to the Hirst Lecturer after the formal announcement to invite the Hirst Lecturer to possible dates, venue and accompanying speaker. The Chair will report on the acceptance of the Hirst Lectureship.

The Society Lectures and Meetings Committee will also consider:

- possible departments for the Hirst Lecturer to take place.
- possible local organisers at each institution who may be approached to host the Hirst Lecture and Society Meeting.
- possible accompanying speakers.

Once the venue and possible dates have been confirmed with the Hirst Lecturer, the Chair will write to the suggested local organisers to:

- invite them to host the Hirst Lecturer at their department
- suggest suitable dates for the Hirst Lecture and Society Meeting.
- confirm what funding will be available from the LMS

Once the suggestions for the accompanying speaker have been confirmed with the Hirst Lecturer, the Chair will write to the suggested speaker to:

- invite them to host the Hirst Lecturer at their department

- suggest suitable dates for the Hirst Lecture and Society Meeting.
- confirm what funding will be available from the LMS
- offer the Hirst Prize-winner the option to link their lecture with the BSHM meeting or to host the Meeting elsewhere when the winner is announced

4. *Funding information*

The London Mathematical Society will fund:

- Travel expenses (including travel to/from the UK and within the UK) for both the Hirst Lecturer and the accompanying speaker.
- accommodation expenses for the speakers
- a contribution to the host department to hold a dinner and/or reception for the Hirst Lecturer.
- travel grants for LMS members and research students to attend the LMS Hirst Lecture and Society Meeting.
- a contribution of up to £1000 in caring costs and expenses

5. *Practical Information*

The following timetable will normally be adhered to:

November/December year x – 2	LMS advertises call for nominations for the Hirst Prize and Lectureship. The Lectureship is planned to take place in year x
January/February year x-1	Nominations submitted to the LMS
February year x – 1	Nominations considered at February meeting of Prizes Committee
May year x- 1	Prizes Committee makes final decision about award of Hirst Prize.
June/July year x- 1	Formal announcement of the winner of the Hirst Prize-winner and Lectureship at the General Society Meeting in London
June/July year x-1 – September year x-1	Chair of the Society Lectures and Meetings Committee writes to the Prize-winner to discuss date, venue and accompanying speaker. Chair also writes to host department and accompanying speaker.
October year x – 1	Itinerary reported to Society Lectures and Meetings Committee.
October year x-1 to Month year x	Hirst Lecture and Society Meeting advertised
Month year x	Hirst Lecture and Society Meeting takes place.

Hosting a Hirst Lecturer

The local organisers will be asked to:

- Make local arrangements including accommodation etc

- Liaise with the LMS to prepare posters and publicity
- Publicise the event as widely as possible.
- Publicise the event as the LMS Hirst Lectureship unless otherwise agreed with the Society
- Utilise the funds as described above in Funding Information
- Submit invoices to the LMS within three months of the event.

The LMS will:

- Send a formal Letter of Invitation to the Hirst Lecturer
- Prepare the itinerary in consultation with the Hirst Lecturer and local organisers
- Fund the visit, as described in the Funding Information
- Organise the Hirst Lecture as part of the Ordinary Meeting of the Society at the chosen venue.
- Liaise with the local organisers to prepare posters and publicity
- Publicise the event as widely as possible.

Last updated: February 2021