CHRISTMAS LECTURES® FAQ

**Ballot information**

**Who can come to the CHRISTMAS LECTURES®?**

Anyone. However priority booking is given to members of the Ri and schools.

This means all Ri members (Fellows, Member, Associate and Faraday) and all UK registered schools will be entitled to enter the ballot for CHRISTMAS LECTURES® tickets first. Should any tickets still be available after this, they will go on sale to non-members.

As always juniors need to be aged between 11 and 17 years and adults must be accompanied by at least one junior. To enter the ballot you will need to complete a ballot application form. This will be available online from **Wednesday 11 September**. A paper version can be requested by emailing the events team.

**What are the benefits of becoming a Member?**

Members receive priority booking for the CHRISTMAS LECTURES®. This means only Ri Members will be entitled to enter the ballot for tickets first. Should any tickets still be available after this, they will go on sale to non-members.

In addition to this, by joining the Ri you become part of a dynamic community of people of all ages from around the world who share an interest in and passion for science and technology.

Events take place throughout the year on topics from climate change, quantum mechanics and genomics to science policy and even the science of champagne. You will also get advance information, exclusive events and a discount in the café and bar.

In addition to the benefits you receive, your membership subscription enables us to continue the amazing work of the Ri in promoting science, through education, communication, research and heritage.

If you would like to join up as a member of the Ri, visit [http://www.rigb.org/membership](http://www.rigb.org/membership)

**Why can’t under 11s come to the Lectures?**

This is because the CHRISTMAS LECTURES® are recorded and televised on the BBC, who target a viewer profile of those aged 11 and above. This will be undermined if there are people in the audience below this age. In addition to this, the length of filming is long (the lectures are not on a commercial TV channel), sometimes lasting up to 2 hours. Adults and juniors are not seated together in the theatre and in our experience this has caused problems with younger children.

Children under 11 can view the lectures in the Library or alternatively can come to the CHRISTMAS LECTURES® Preview event. Both events have no age restrictions.
**Why must adults be accompanied by a junior?**

This is because the CHRISTMAS LECTURES® are by tradition an event for those aged between 11 and 17 years.

Adults who are not accompanied by a junior may watch the Lectures in the Library or alternatively can come to the CHRISTMAS LECTURES® Preview event. Both events have no restrictions.

**How many tickets can I apply for?**

The maximum number of tickets you can apply for is 10 (junior + adults). Adults must be accompanied by a junior aged between 11 and 17 years. [What happens if I’m a school group?](#)

**I’m a school, how can I apply for tickets?**

School groups are treated as members of the Ri for the CHRISTMAS LECTURES® and can enter the ballot on **Wednesday 11 September**. You must include the name of the school as well as the name of the teacher making the application. Schools can only enter the ballot once. They can purchase a maximum of 20 tickets (adults + students) and there needs to be at least one adult to every 15 students. Students must be aged between 11 and 17 years. You will also need to purchase the tickets with a credit/debit card.

Schools are classified according to the following databases:

- Scotland – Learning and Teaching Scotland [www.ltscotland.org.uk/scottishschoolsonline](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/scottishschoolsonline)

**Can I apply more than once?**

Only one ballot can be filled out per member or school.

Each ballot form can be used to apply for multiple tickets on a particular date. Note that if there are multiple members at the same address, each member can apply for a different lecture day.

**How does the ballot process work?**

- The ballot will open to all Ri Members and schools on **Wednesday 11 September**, **closing at 11.59pm** on **Wednesday 18 September for schools** and **Wednesday 25 September for Ri Members**. You may enter at any time during this period without affecting your chances of success.
- The ballot process will call for applicants to list their preference of lecture dates. Please only apply for the dates you can definitely come to.
- Note that the number of tickets you apply for cannot be amended once you have submitted your application, so please chose this carefully.
- If successful, you will be selected to go to one lecture only based on your preference.
- Each ballot form can be used to apply for multiple tickets on a particular date.
• Note that if there are multiple Members at the same address, each Member can apply for a different lecture day.
• As always, juniors need to be aged between 11 and 17 years and adults must be accompanied by at least one junior.
• The ballot must be made in the Member’s name and unique membership number, even for Junior Faraday Members.
• Successful applicants will be notified via email in the weeks that follow the end of the ballot period with details on how to make your payment.
• Applicants must purchase the number of tickets they apply for.
• Successful applicants will be given one week to make the payment.
• If the payment is not made within this time, then the tickets will be reallocated.
• If you are unsuccessful, you will be notified by the beginning of November.
• Tickets will then be made available for non-members to purchase.

**Why can’t I come to more than one CHRISTMAS LECTURES®?**

Because of the high demand for CHRISTMAS LECTURES® tickets each year, there are many Ri members, school groups and people from the public who are left disappointed at not getting a ticket. Therefore in order to give as many people the opportunity to experience the magic of the live event we have restricted attendance to just one CHRISTMAS LECTURES® day.

**What are standby tickets?**

Because a significant number of people do not turn up on the day of the lecture we have some non-guaranteed standby tickets available. We are confident that we will be able to seat you in the theatre but please be patient with us on the day whilst we are finding your seats. In the unlikely circumstance that we are not able to seat you in the theatre we will give you a full refund for your ticket and a place in the Library to watch a live feed of the lecture. Please note that juniors with standby tickets are given priority over adults with standby tickets.

**Juniors need to be aged between 11 and 17 years and adults must be accompanied by at least one junior.**

Standby tickets will go on sale following the completion of the ballot.

**What are library tickets?**

You can still be a part of the fun by watching a live feed from the adjacent theatre on the big screen. Unlike the tickets for the theatre, there are no age restrictions so everyone can join in.
General information on the CHRISTMAS LECTURES®

Getting to the Royal Institution

The Ri is located at 21 Albemarle Street, London, W1S 4BS. The closest Underground station is Green Park, on the Jubilee, Victoria and Piccadilly lines. There are numerous bus stops nearby, and cycle racks round the corner.

Timings

Please ensure that you arrive at the Ri by 5.30pm. Anyone arriving at the Ri after 5.30pm will not be admitted to the theatre and their ticket cost will not be refunded. The lecture is scheduled to last for approximately one hour, but due to filming retakes it could last up to two hours. To avoid disruption no one will be permitted to enter or leave the theatre for the entire duration of filming, so please make sure you organise your travel arrangements with this in mind.

Seating arrangements in the lecture theatre

The colour of your ticket corresponds to a coloured section within the theatre. Stewards within your section will tell you where to sit. 11-17 year olds and adults sit separately; typically young people are seated in the stalls and adults in the gallery. For this reason it is important to make sure that the adults in your party have tickets marked ‘ADULT’.

Please note that because 11-17 year olds and adults are seated separately, teachers will likely not be seated with their students. If you have exceptional circumstances under which an adult must be seated with juniors in the stalls, please contact the events team by emailing events@ri.ac.uk.

Because the CHRISTMAS LECTURES® are being filmed, the broadcaster may, for operational reasons, need to move people to different locations in the theatre on the day, but we will try to keep such changes to a minimum.

There will likely be a short wait between the time you arrive at the Ri and the time we are able to begin seating people in the lecture theatre. Please be patient during this time; the film crew are making sure the set is safe and ready to accommodate you.

Filming

Ticket holders consent to filming and sound recording as members of the audience. School parties should ensure that appropriate parental permission is obtained before attendance. The unauthorised use of photographic, sound or film equipment in the venue is strictly prohibited. Unauthorised recording may result in the tape or film being destroyed, and your removal from the event without a ticket refund.

Clothing/branding

Please avoid wearing any clothing with obvious logos/branding as anyone wearing such garments may be asked to move out of camera range. Schools students should wear casual clothes and not school uniform.
Mobile phones
Please note that all mobile phones must be turned off during the lecture. A phone ringing during the lecture could ruin the recording and even if the phone is on silent or vibrates it will affect audio equipment and could significantly disrupt filming.

Special requirements
Hopefully you will have informed us at the time of booking of any particular requirements you or your party may have, i.e. for wheelchair access or any disabilities. If you haven’t, please contact us as soon as possible at events@ri.ac.uk or on 020 7409 2992. We need to know this information in advance so that we can ensure that we are able to accommodate you appropriately.

Food and drink, personal possessions
We have a café where refreshments can be purchased. However, please be aware that food and drink will not be allowed in the theatre itself. We will have a cloakroom available on the day of the lectures, so please make use of them as there is limited space in the theatre to store your coats and bags. Please note the Ri cannot be held responsible for your items should they get lost or damaged.

Demonstrations
Many of the demonstrations you will see require volunteers. Although some are planned in advance, most volunteers are chosen in the lecture. There is no way for us to arrange for you to take part in demonstrations – the best way to volunteer is just to put up your hand.

Cancellations
You can cancel your ballot application at anytime. This can be done by emailing the Events Team at events@ri.ac.uk.

If you are unable to attend the lectures once you have bought your tickets, we would be grateful if you could return your unwanted ticket(s) to us so that we can re-allocate the seats. We will only issue a refund if we receive notification and the unwanted tickets at least two weeks before the lecture date. A £2.00 administration charge per ticket will be deducted for any refund given.

Please note that this supersedes the Ri’s normal cancellation conditions.

Further enquiries
If you have any other questions that have not been addressed, please email the Events Team at events@ri.ac.uk or call 020 7409 2992.