



The Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters was founded in Trondheim in 1760, and it is the oldest Norwegian scientific institution. It is a non-governmental, nationwide body that embraces all scientific disciplines. The Society is organized in an Academy and a Foundation with one common Board.

The Academy serves as a traditional academy with prominent scientists as members, and organizing meetings for its members. The Foundation supports scientific projects and scientific publications. The Society's main objective is to promote and disseminate science. The Society publishes the journal *Skrifter* (Transactions), which was founded in 1761. The Society has enjoyed royal protection since 1767.

Academy Members

As of 1 January 2016 the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters had 582 Norwegian and 155 foreign members. The members are divided into two classes – Natural Sciences and Humanities. Each class is divided into groups – 8 groups in Natural Sciences and 7 groups in the Humanities. Each of the two classes has its own board. A seat becomes vacant on the death of the holder or when a member has reached the age of 70. Members over 70 years of age keep all their rights and are still full members. Only members of the Academy are entitled to propose candidates for membership, which is based solely on the candidates' scientific achievements.

The Academy's prizes

The highest award of the Society is the Gunnerus Medal, named after one of the founders of the Society, bishop Johan Ernst Gunnerus. In addition, the Society awards its gold medal to person who have excelled outside regular work, showing exceptional dedication in the promotion and dissemination of culture or science, widely interpreted and in accordance with the goals of the Society. Finally, The Society awards annually two prizes – the I.K. Lykke awards – for outstanding scientific work done by scientists under the age of 35.

The Society's premises

At the Society's 250th anniversary in 2010, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology gave the Society the free use of its building "Fylkesmannsboligen", prominently located at Nidelven in downtown Trondheim. Prior to this, the Society had its offices with the Museum, which had belonged to the Society up to 1968. The regular meetings of the Academy take place in the Festive Hall of Cathedral School in Trondheim, a tradition that goes back to the late 1700s.