



United Nations
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Organización
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences



To:
National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO

Cc:
UNESCO Field Offices

Ref: SC/PCB/SPR/FWIS/14

24 April 2014

Subject: **L'ORÉAL – UNESCO Awards For Women in Physical Sciences
(2015)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to inform you that, within the framework of the For Women in Science partnership between the L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO, we have launched the 2015 call for nominations for outstanding women scientists from all over the world. Five €100,000 Prizes will be awarded in March 2015 in Paris to five women scientists for the contributions of their research, the strength of their commitments and their impact on society.

Since the beginning of the programme in 1998, L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science has honored 82 Laureates, including two who went on to win the Nobel Prize (Scientists around the world are invited to submit candidates, and an international jury of eminent scientists, makes the final selection).

Given your Government's interest in the promotion and the enhancement of the Programme For Women in Science, we would be grateful if you could pass on the information that the call for nominations has been opened to renowned scientists in your countries who could present and nominate the most qualified candidates.

For this purpose, the Platform "For Women in Science" launched last year will still be accessible on www.fwis.fr. The platform is very user-friendly and is the only tool available for the submission of the candidates' applications and later for the selection process. The nominators will have to sign into the platform and upload all the necessary documents in order to submit the candidates' application.

The deadline for submitting nominations is **Sunday, 15th June 2014**. Please note that only nominations received through the platform and prior to this deadline will be considered by the Members of the Jury. No paper applications will be considered anymore.

In the annex you will find the Rules and Regulations guiding the programme. Should you experience any difficulty or if you need further information about the platform, do not hesitate to contact fwis@unesco.org.

We are confident that this joint venture will serve to strengthen UNESCO's efforts to promote the participation of women scientists in global development issues.

We thank you for your active participation in ensuring that the best women in research from each region are recognized and rewarded for their scientific excellence.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Sara Ravella
Director-General
L'Oréal Foundation



Wendy Watson-Wright
Assistant Director-General
for Natural Sciences *ad-interim*
UNESCO



ANNEX

RULES AND REGULATIONS

L'OREAL–UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS 2015 EDITION

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

1. Introduction

Created in 1998, the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* International Awards program identifies and supports five eminent women in science throughout the world. Each year, five Awards Laureates are recognized for their contributions to the advancement of science, in Life or Physical Sciences in alternating years.

The 2015 edition of the Awards will designate five outstanding scientific researchers in the **Physical Sciences**, working in one of each of the following regions:

- Africa & the Arab States
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe¹
- Latin America
- North America

Each of the five Laureates will receive an award of €100,000.

2. Eligibility Criteria

The candidate must:

- Be recognized for her personal scientific excellence among the international scientific community
- Be actively involved in scientific research
- Be involved in any field of the Physical Sciences mentioned in appendix 1
- Not be directly or personally involved in the *For Women in Science* program, as a jury member or otherwise, in any country.

¹ Including Israel

3. Selection Criteria

The selection criteria of the candidates are the following:

- The candidate's outstanding contribution to the general advancement of science
- The impact of the candidate's body of work on the current state of her field of science (number, quality and impact of publications, conference presentations, patents...)
- The recognition of the candidate by peers within her community
- The candidate's commitments to education through publications, teaching activities, mentoring, etc.

The L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Awards are non-renewable.

4. Nominations

Scientists around the world are invited to submit candidates for the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Awards.

To be considered eligible for an award, it is necessary to be nominated in writing by an eminent scientist. Self-nominations are not eligible, nor are nominations from immediate family members. Teams are not eligible for nomination.

Qualified Nominators:

The right to submit proposals for the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Awards shall, by statute, be enjoyed by:

- Head of Universities or Scientific Institutions
- Members of the Academy of Sciences or other National Scientific Institutions
- Holders of research chairs
- Permanent and assistant professors
- Past FWIS Laureates
- Holders of a Ph.D.

Nominations can only be submitted electronically through the online platform: www.fwis.fr. The nominator will need to create a user id and password if new to the system.

An application is considered complete only if it includes all of the following documents:

- A detailed Curriculum Vitae
- A brief explanation why the nominator considers the individual to be a worthy candidate for the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Awards (between 200-400 words)
- A list of publications and patents, starting with the most recent
- A list of the five most significant publications in order of importance with: a brief resume explaining their significance (less than 200 words), number of citations for each paper excluding auto-citations and the impact factor of each journal

- The full texts of these five most important publications
- Three to five letters of recommendation from eminent scientists outside the candidate's home institution.

Nominations which are incomplete or received after the deadline for nomination, as well as candidatures that do not meet the requirements mentioned above, will not be taken into consideration.

5. Laureate Selection

- **Peer review pre-selection**

All the submitted nominations will be examined by a peer review comprised of experts from a variety of disciplines in Physical Sciences, who will pre-select the eligible candidates.

The peer review evaluates the eligible nominations and prepares a short list of no more than 50 candidates to be considered by the *For Women in Science* Jury in Physical Sciences.

- **Jury selection**

The *For Women in Science* Jury in Physical Sciences is chaired by a Nobel Prize winner and composed of eminent members of the scientific community.

The jury will evaluate the nominations pre-selected by the peer reviewers, in accordance with the selection criteria mentioned in Paragraph 3.

For the jury deliberation, which will be held in September in Paris, the jury will review and discuss the best nominations for each region. The jury chooses the five Awards Laureates through a majority vote. Its decision is final and without appeal. It cannot be contested or subject to explanation or justification.

The results will be communicated by phone to the Awards Laureates at the end of the deliberation process. They must remain confidential until the Awards ceremony.

6. Laureates' commitments

The payment of the Awards (€100,000 each) will be made by the L'Oréal Foundation directly to the Laureates after the Award Ceremony, and after having received the necessary original documents for the wire transfer of funds.

The Awards are not transferable for any other purpose whatsoever.

The Laureates commit to:

- Participate in the Awards ceremony and the various events organized in Paris in March 2015 around the “For Women in Science Week”. Travel and full accommodation expenses during the Laureates’ stay in Paris will be covered by the L’Oréal Foundation.
- Keep their announcement confidential until the Awards Ceremony and not to contact the media.

The Laureates agree to be photographed, filmed and interviewed for non-commercial objectives and For Women in Science program-related purposes. These photos, videos and texts will be used in publications and audiovisual means including but not limited to written press, television, internet, outdoor display, corporate publications, exhibitions, in France and worldwide. The image of the laureates can be used for promotion of science among the younger generation, particularly young women. A separate written authorization will be signed by each of the Laureates. The Laureates will not receive any remuneration for such promotional activity.

7. Provisional Timetable

Nominations opening date: 9th April 2014

Nominations closing date: 15th June 2014

Pre-selection by peer review: July 2014

Examination by the Jury: August-September 2014

Jury deliberation meeting: end of September 2014

Awards Ceremony: March 2015

APPENDIX 1 MAIN PHYSICAL SCIENCE FIELDS

Astronomical science
Analytical chemistry
Astrochemistry
Astronomical spectroscopy
Astrophysics
Atmospheric science
Atomic physics
Chemical physics
Chemistry
Condensed matter
Cosmochemistry
Cosmology
Crystallography
Earth sciences
Geochemistry
Geology
Geophysics
Hydrology
Inorganic chemistry
Material science
Mathematical-physics
Mechanics
Metallurgy
Molecular physics
Nanosciences
Nuclear physics
Optics
Organic chemistry
Particle physics
Photonics
Physical chemistry
Physics
Planetary science
Quantum mechanics
Solid state physics
Surface science
Theoretical chemistry
Theoretical physics