**The Future of Science is Female: Apply for L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards Now**

Johannesburg, 1 April 2025 – The Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO are proud to announce the launch of the seventh edition of the For Women in Science (FWIS) Young Talent Search in South Africa. This prestigious initiative is dedicated to empowering exceptional female researchers under the age of 40, driving innovation in critical fields such as healthcare, sustainable energy, and agriculture.

Far more than an award, the FWIS initiative is a transformative opportunity for talented women in research. The programme provides leadership training, access to an influential network of mentors, and support to help women scientists overcome barriers and advance their careers.

“At L’Oréal, we believe in the power of science to create meaningful change,” says Michelle Gololo, Corporate Affairs & Engagement Lead at L’Oréal South Africa. “In partnership with UNESCO, we are committed to promoting diversity, excellence, and innovation in science while highlighting the crucial role women play in shaping the future of research.”

Eligible female researchers dedicated to making a difference in their fields are encouraged to apply. Successful candidates will receive grants of up to R160,000 to support their doctoral or postdoctoral research, enabling them to push the boundaries of scientific discovery.

“Winning the FWIS Award has been a transformative experience that has significantly impacted my career. The Award has provided me with a platform to expand my professional network and gain international exposure. Moreover, it has opened doors to new opportunities and helped me develop the skills and confidence I need to succeed in my field,” says Sapokazi Timake, Phd Candidate, Cape Peninsula University of Technology and 2023 award winner. “I had the privilege of meeting and learning from other talented women in science from sub-Saharan Africa and gained a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing women in science in Africa.”

The FWIS initiative has a proud legacy of supporting outstanding researchers, awarding over R4 million in grants to close the gender gap in science and foster excellence in the global research community.

Applications are open until 20 May 2025. For more details and to apply, visit [www.forwomeninscience.com](http://www.forwomeninscience.com).

Let’s continue to champion the women who are shaping the future of science.

Ends.