L'Oreal-UNESCO for Women in Science South African National Programme

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) focus area(s)

APPLICATION DEADLINE

20th July 2020

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1998, the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science partnership was created to recognize and promote women in science. Its programs reward established women scientists whose outstanding achievements have contributed to the advancement of scientific knowledge and of its benefits to society and provide support to promising young women who are already making significant contributions in their scientific disciplines.

Women scientists are leading ground-breaking research across the world. But despite their remarkable discoveries, women still represent just 29 % of researchers globally, and their work rarely gains the recognition it deserves. Only 3 % of Nobel Prizes for science have ever been awarded to women, and only 11 % of senior research roles are held by women in Europe. As the world hurtles towards a future threatened by climate change and resource scarcity, the global scientific community must lose no time in recognising and promoting women scientists' achievements. The Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO have worked together for more than 20 years to help empower more women scientists to achieve scientific excellence and participate equally in solving the great challenges facing humanity. To date, we have awarded more than 100 laureates, three of whom have gone on to win Nobel Prizes. Working in the Physical sciences, Formal sciences and Life sciences on five different continents, these eminent women researchers are helping to change the world through their discoveries, and are also role models for younger generations of women researchers who want to pursue their scientific careers and break the glass ceiling.

Each year, the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science programs also support more than 250 talented young women researchers. Through its 54 regional and national programs, the Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO support them at a crucial period in their careers, during their thesis or post-doctoral studies. However, we must remember that there is still much more to be done to achieve true gender equality in science. But we remain determined, and we are moving steadily towards making our vision a reality. One day, we will live in a world where girls are encouraged to study science, where women have adequate support to balance the responsibilities of research and motherhood, and where scientists are judged purely on the merit of their discoveries and the potential of their work to change the world.

The second edition of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science South African National Programme aims to promote and encourage young women in science. This programme identifies and rewards talented young female scientists in the field of Formal sciences, Life sciences, Environmental sciences, Physical sciences, Engineering and Technological sciences.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Having obtained a Ph.D. degree in Formal sciences, Life sciences, Environmental sciences, Physical sciences, Engineering and Technological sciences or pursuing studies leading to a Ph.D. degree at a South African university
- Be a South African Citizen
- Working in a Research Laboratory or Institution or being enrolled in a doctoral programme at a University in South Africa
- Candidates must be no more than 40 years old by the end of the application period for PhD and Post-doctoral awards

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS:

- Candidates who have already been awarded a research grant from previous L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science programmes are **not eligible**.
- This programme honours seven talented South African women for the quality of their research and encourages them to pursue a career in science in any South African Province.
  -**Five** research grants of **R80 000** each for five **PhD researchers** enrolled at a South African institution and completing their doctorate in a research laboratory.
  -**Two** research grants of **R160 000** each for two South African **post-doctoral researchers** working in a laboratory or research institute registered in one of the South African provinces.
- The selection criteria of the candidate by the jury are the following:
  -The candidate's outstanding academic records: i) Including number, quality and impact of the publications (impact factors to be submitted), ii) Conference presentations, iii) Patents etc.
  -The scientific quality of the research project
  -The innovative nature and productivity of the research and its potential application in science
  -The ability of the candidate to communicate and promote sciences to a younger audience and to encourage young African female scientists.
  -The candidate's career-path

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted online.
The following documents must be submitted when applying:

- Certified copies of the degrees or recent diplomas
- A proof of having obtained a Ph.D. degree for postdoctoral candidates
- A proof of being enrolled at a South African University for doctoral candidates
- A detailed project summary of a maximum 2 pages, including:
  -The project description of the current research project
  -The proposed use of the grant motivating the candidature with some budget indications. Provide insight into what the grant will be used for e.g. conferences, travel or equipment
- Letters of recommendation from the research supervisor and/or the director of the scientific institution where the research project is carried or the Dean of the University under which the candidate is running her research
- The list of publications and patents

Application guidelines can be found here and on the attached document.
Please send a complete copy with all supporting documents submitted for this application to the Faculty Research Office – **natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za**
Please note that if funding is awarded, a 15% UP recovery is applicable and should be budgeted for by the applicant.

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CONTACTS FOR CALL QUERIES

Faculty Contact person: Mrs Natasha Jeftha (Natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za)