

Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO
Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education

UNESCO has Called for nominations for 2025 L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science International Award.

Applications should be forwarded to the Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) latest by 2nd July 2024 at the following address for further consideration and onward transmission to UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France.

Ms. Madhu Bala Soni
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Ministry of Education
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**The Assistant Director-General
for Natural Sciences**

To:
National Commissions for UNESCO

cc:
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO
UNESCO Field Offices

27 May 2024

Ref. : SC/PBS/STIP/24/3784

Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Director-General, I am pleased to inform you that within the framework of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programme we have launched the call for nominations for the 2025 International Awards.

The 2025 edition of the Awards will designate five outstanding scientific researchers in Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science. Each of the five Laureates will receive an award of €100,000 for her contribution to advances in scientific research.

Since the beginning of the programme in 1998, the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards have honoured 132 laureates, seven of whom have also won the Nobel Prize.

Scientists around the world are invited to nominate candidates for the 2025 International Awards and an international jury of eminent scientists will make the final selection.

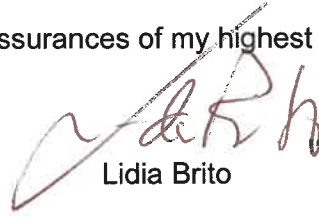
I would be grateful if you could please transmit this call for nominations to renowned scientists and partner institutions in your country who would be likely to present candidates. The Rules and Regulations for the 2025 edition of the International Awards are enclosed in this letter.

Nominations must be submitted **by Monday, 1 July 2024** through the dedicated online platform: <https://www.forwomeninscience.com/challenge/show/107>. The platform is the only tool for submitting candidates' applications and monitoring the selection process. Paper applications cannot be accepted.

Nominators will have to sign into the platform and upload all the necessary documents in order to submit the candidate's application. Nominators of previous editions will be asked to reset their password when they first log in, for data security reasons and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation. New nominators will need to create a user id and password.

Thank you for your active participation in ensuring that the best women researchers from each region of the world are recognised and rewarded for their scientific excellence.

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

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Lidia Brito', is written over a faint, light-colored signature line.

Lidia Brito

Annex: Rules & Regulations for the 2025 L'Oréal-UNESCO International Awards



RULES AND REGULATIONS
L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS
2025 EDITION

PHYSICAL SCIENCES – MATHEMATICS - COMPUTER SCIENCE

1. Introduction

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

The 2025 edition of the International Awards will designate five outstanding scientific researchers in the field of Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, working in the following regions:

- Africa and the Arab States
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- North America

One candidate will be selected for each of the five regions, the determining factor being the place of work for at least 5 years, not the nationality of the candidate.

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

2. Eligibility Criteria

The candidate must:

- Be recognized for her scientific excellence by the international scientific community,
- Be actively involved in scientific research,
- Work in any of the scientific fields listed in Appendix 1.

There is no age limit for the candidate.

3. Selection Criteria

The candidates' selection criteria are the following:

- The candidate's outstanding contribution to the advancement of science,
- The impact of the candidate's research on the current state of the relevant scientific field (number, quality and impact of publications, conference presentations, patents),
- The recognition of the candidate by peers within her discipline through publications,
- The recognition of the candidate's commitments to education, teaching activities, mentoring and/or to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals more broadly.

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

4. Nominations

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

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

Qualified nominators may be:

- Heads of University or Scientific Institutions,
- Members of Academies of Science,
- Holders of Research Chairs,
- Full professors,
- Former Laureates of the *For Women in Science* International Awards,
- at a minimum holders of a PhD in Science.

Nominations can only be submitted electronically through the online dedicated platform: <https://www.forwomeninscience.com/authority/international-awards> and must be written in English.

Since a new application platform has been implemented in 2021, previous nominators logging on to this new website for the first time will be asked to reset their password for data security reasons (in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation). If new to the system, the nominator will need to create a user ID and password.

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

- A brief explanation of why the nominator considers the candidate to be eligible for the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Awards (200-400 words).
- A suggested quotation for the general public if the candidate is selected. This should be a concise statement (maximum of 40 words) describing the key technical or professional accomplishment for which the candidate deserves the Award. Note that the Jury will approve the final official Laureates' statements.
- A detailed Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 to 3 pages). The nominator is requested to include in the CV (or in the publications list) any reference to the candidate's scientific social networks and/or websites (such as ResearchGate, ORCID, personal website).
- A list of all the candidate's publications.
- A list of the most significant patents starting with the most recent one.

- A list of the 10 most significant publications in order of importance with: a brief summary explaining their significance and why they are so relevant according to the Nominator (less than 150 words by publication); the number of citations for each paper excluding auto-citations, and the impact factor of each journal, if relevant. Please, add a link to access all publications mentioned in the list. If for some of the publications the related links are not available, please upload them in pdf, if possible, or at least provide fully detailed article references including all the authors.
- Three to five letters of recommendation from eminent scientists outside the candidate's home institution.

Nominations that are incomplete or received after Monday, July 1st, 2024, as well as applications that do not meet the requirements mentioned above, will not be taken into consideration.

Nominations are valid for two editions of the International Awards in Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computer science. Unsuccessful nominations submitted for the 2025 edition will be held on file and nominators will be invited to update the candidates' information when the next call for nominations opens April 2026 for the 2027 edition.

5. Laureates' Selection

- **Peer review pre-selection**

Through a peer review process, an experts' panel from a variety of disciplines in Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science will examine all submitted nominations.

After the experts' evaluation, a shortlist of around 10 candidates per each of the 5 regions (no more than 50 candidates in total) will be sent for assessment to the *For Women in Science* International Jury in Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science.

- **Jury selection**

The *For Women in Science* International Jury in Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science is composed of distinguished members of the international scientific community and chaired by Professor Artur Avila, Professor at Institute of Mathematics University of Zurich (Switzerland), Extraordinary Researcher at IMPA (Instituto de Mathematica Pura e Aplicada) Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and Fields medal winner in 2014.

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

Before the Jury's deliberation meeting, which will be held in November 2024, the Jury will review and discuss the best nominations for each region. The Jury will decide the final selection of the five Laureates by 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 Laureates a few days after the deliberation. However, they must remain confidential until the official announcement.

6. Laureates' commitments

Each Laureate will receive a €100,000 Award, which is presented personally to the Laureate, in recognition of her commitment and contribution to the advancement of scientific research.

The Fondation L'Oréal will make the payment of the Award directly to the Laureates a few months after the deliberation and upon reception of the necessary original documents for the wire transfer of funds.

The Awards are not transferable for any other purpose whatsoever.

The Laureates notably commit to:

- Participate in the International Awards ceremony and all related events (interviews, training, presentations, dinners, visits) that will be organized around the “*For Women in Science Week*”. The Fondation L'Oréal will cover travel and accommodation expenses related to the Laureates' trip.
- Keep the announcement confidential until the official announcement and not contact the media before that date.

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. Each of the Laureates will sign a separate written audiovisual authorization. The Laureates will not receive any remuneration for such promotional activity.

7. Provisional Timetable

Nominations opening date: **Tuesday, April 30th 2024**

Nominations closing date: **Monday, July 1st 2024**

Pre-selection by peer review: **early September to early October 2024**

Examination by the Jury: **mid-October to mid-November 2024**

Jury deliberation meeting: **end of November 2024**

For Women in Science week: **June 2025 (to be confirmed)**

For Women in Science Awards Ceremony: **June 2025 (to be confirmed)**

APPENDIX 1 – PHYSICAL SCIENCES, MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE¹

FORMAL SCIENCES

MATHEMATICS	COMPUTER & INFORMATION SCIENCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applied mathematics - Pure mathematics - Statistics and probability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Computer sciences, information science and bioinformatics

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

CHEMISTRY	PHYSICS	EARTH & RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analytical chemistry - Colloid chemistry - Inorganic and nuclear chemistry - Organic chemistry - Physical chemistry, Polymer science, Electrochemistry (dry cells, batteries, fuel cells, corrosion metals, electrolysis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Astronomy (including astrophysics, space science) - Atomic, molecular and chemical physics (physics of atoms and molecules including collision, interaction with radiation; magnetic resonances; Mossbauer effect) - Condensed matter physics (including formerly solid-state physics, superconductivity) - Fluids and plasma physics (including surface physics) - Nuclear physics - Optics (including laser optics and quantum optics), Acoustics - Particles and fields physics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climatic research - Environmental sciences - Geochemistry and geophysics - Geology - Geosciences, multidisciplinary - Meteorology and atmospheric sciences - Mineralogy - Oceanography, Hydrology, Water resources - Paleontology - Physical geography - Volcanology

¹ This classification of disciplines is based on the Revised field of Science and Technology (FoS) Classification in OECD Frascati Manual and adapted to the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Program