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7 April 2005

**Subject: UNESCO-L'ORÉAL Co-Sponsored Fellowships for Young Women in Life Sciences - 2006**

Madam/Sir,

On behalf of the Director-General, I have pleasure in informing you that L'ORÉAL has kindly agreed to renew the offer to finance fifteen (15) fellowships for the promotion of young women who are carrying out research in the life sciences all over the world. It is hoped that in this manner impetus can be given to research in life sciences and to enhancing the active involvement of deserving young women scientists in research that can contribute to the solution of the problems of the new millennium.

Aware of your Government's interest in the promotion and the enhancement of the role of young women, we are confident that a great importance to these fellowships will be given. I should be grateful if you could transmit this offer to interested governmental and non-governmental bodies. In particular, universities, scientific research institutes and institutes of higher education should be encouraged to nominate meritorious candidates through your National Commission.

The target group, eligibility criteria, conditions for application, application procedure and terms of the fellowships are set out in the annex to this letter. To enable the Selection Committee to make the best possible choice, I should be grateful if you would arrange for your country's candidates (maximum two) to complete and attach, in as detailed manner as possible, the required forms and documents. All the applications should be sent by **15 September 2005** to UNESCO, Fellowships Section, (telephone: 33.1.45681507 or 45681512/e-mail: [a.zaid@unesco.org](mailto:a.zaid@unesco.org) or [r.jakubowicz@unesco.org](mailto:r.jakubowicz@unesco.org)) 7, Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris (an advance copy may be sent by fax: 33.1.45.68.55.03).

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To: National Commissions for UNESCO  
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO  
UNESCO Field Offices  
Selected Scientific Institutes

Should your National Commission have already submitted applications not selected in the 2005 cycle of this programme, you may, if you so desire, re-introduce them under the new offer. In this case, your National Commission will only need to confirm this wish by letter.

The programme is offered in open competition. As the number of fellowships put at the disposal of UNESCO under this programme is limited, only candidates with the necessary qualifications and who demonstrate outstanding intellectual qualities, imagination and personal commitment will have the chance of being selected.

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

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



Ahmed Sayyad  
Assistant Director-General  
for External Relations and Cooperation

Attachments: (2)

## UNESCO-L'ORÉAL Co-Sponsored Fellowships for Young Women in Life Sciences - 2006

### A. INTRODUCTION

With a view to promoting the contribution of young women - from all over the world – in research developments taking place in life sciences, a joint programme has been launched with L'ORÉAL within the framework of the UNESCO Co-Sponsored Fellowships Scheme. L'ORÉAL has renewed its generous offer of 15 fellowships for deserving young women originating from UNESCO's Member States, who, through their enthusiasm and innovative research, are making valuable contributions to further the development of life sciences.

The UNESCO-L'ORÉAL fellowships scheme focuses on UNESCO's premise that people are the world's greatest resource and that innovation and excellence, especially in the young, deserve to be encouraged through the concerted efforts of the international community. The award of the fellowships constitutes a key strategy through which impetus is being given to the enhancement of the role of women in devising scientific solutions to problems confronting humankind in the twenty-first century.

### B. TARGET GROUP

The programme is designed to identify and reward fifteen deserving, committed and talented young women scientists, from all over the world, active in the field of life sciences. With a view to ensuring that a balanced geographical representation is made, a maximum of three young women, from each of the five geo-cultural regions of the world, will be awarded fellowships.

Candidates must already be engaged in pursuing research at the doctoral or post-doctoral level in one or allied fields of life sciences including **biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, and physiology**.

Special attention will be given to candidatures from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

### C. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants (maximum two from each applying National Commission) must meet the following general criteria:

1. The National Commission must endorse all applications. UNESCO cannot entertain applications from individuals.
2. Candidates must be no more than 35 years of age. Applicants born before 1 January 1971 will not be considered in this programme.
3. Preference will be given to candidates already possessing at the time of application

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a Ph.D. degree (or equivalent) in the life sciences. However, candidatures from students pursuing studies/research leading to a Ph.D. degree (or equivalent) will also be entertained.

**Only candidates with the necessary qualifications and who demonstrate outstanding intellectual promise and personal qualities will be considered under this programme.**

4. Candidates must be proficient in reading and writing the language of instruction in the proposed country of study.
5. Applicants must be in good health, both physically and mentally.

#### **D. CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION:**

1. Domain of Study: Life Sciences
2. Duration of Proposed Study/Research: minimum 6 months  
maximum 12 months
3. Closing Date for Receipt of Applications: 15 September 2005
4. Possible Date of Commencing Research: Any time between 1 March 2006 and 1 March 2007
5. Place of Study: One country abroad (of a minimum duration of 3 months and a maximum duration of 12 months). The applicant may complete studies, if necessary, in her own country
6. Study Arrangements: Research must be carried out under the auspices of an academic supervisor in a host institution

If the candidate receives another award, scholarship or fellowship, which covers the proposed research and provides for maintenance, she should inform UNESCO immediately for re-examination, and possibly, withdrawal of her application.

It must be understood that, upon termination of the fellowship, the beneficiary must agree to return to her country of residence so that the knowledge acquired may be put to good use in local research and training programmes.

#### **E. APPLICATION PROCEDURES:**

All applications must imperatively be submitted with the required documentation on the prescribed application forms. Each Member State may nominate a maximum of two candidatures. It is the National Commission's responsibility to select the two candidates

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that it wishes to submit to UNESCO. The application(s) should reach the Fellowships Section (ERC/RMS/FEL), UNESCO (7, Place de Fontenoy 75352 Paris 07P) before **15 September 2005** and an advance copy may be sent by fax to: 33.1.45.68.55.03.

1. The application must have the following attachments:

- a) The UNESCO Fellowship application form duly completed, in English or in French, in duplicate. Two recent photographs should be included with the form;
- b) An e-mail address regularly used by the candidate;
- c) Certified copies of degree or diplomas (including transcript of grades) in duplicate. Proof of either having obtained a Ph.D. degree or of being in the process of studying for a Ph.D. degree must be included;
- d) A list of publications, if any;
- e) A letter of recommendation from someone familiar with the candidate's work;
- f) A host institute's letter of acceptance (i.e., the institute that has accepted the candidate for work should she be selected for a fellowship). This letter of acceptance must indicate the date and duration, and the host institute's willingness to provide the relevant training facilities required by the candidate in the chosen field of specialization;
- g) The certificate of language proficiency (on UNESCO form) duly completed in duplicate for the language of the country of study (should this be different from the candidate's mother tongue); and
- h) A detailed description, one to two page(s) (maximum), in either English or French, of the research work for which the candidature is being put forward.

The research proposal should cover the following points:

- **Why?** The concrete nature of the proposed project's contribution to the life sciences, its innovative, original aspects, and the scope and purpose of the research project. The candidate should demonstrate the reasons the theoretical and practical knowledge or training acquired at the host laboratory would be beneficial to her on-going research project.
- **What?** The expected results or impact of the research project being undertaken.
- **How?** Describe the proposed arrangements for conducting the research.
- **Where?** The proposed country where research will be undertaken and the name and address of the host institute/laboratory.
- **When?** The time-framework, explicitly stating the proposed starting date and duration of research, ranging from six months (minimum) to one year (maximum).
- **How much?** A detailed budget estimate indicating the resources required for the candidate to undertake the proposed research. The amount should not exceed US\$20,000. All figures must be shown in US dollars and must be included on a separate page. The amount indicated should cover, exclusively, the international or domestic travel costs for the proposed itinerary and tuition fees, if any, including personal subsistence abroad, etc. Applicants should be

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- realistic in compiling their proposed budgets, and consider that an average of US\$1500 per month for accommodation and meals (including local transportation and incidentals) should not be exceeded. Applications where funds requested are judged to be excessive in relation to the objectives and importance of the project are likely to be considered for a smaller grant. The following costs are not eligible: computer or equipment purchases, publication costs, attendance at conferences, unless a case can be made that such attendance is an integral part of the research and would make a direct and significant contribution to the outcome of the development of life sciences.
2. UNESCO and L'ORÉAL attach the greatest importance to originality and quality. Consideration will be given only to well-planned projects that demonstrate innovation, imagination and relevance, and which promise to contribute to knowledge in life sciences.
  3. Files which are incomplete or which are received after the deadline for application, as well as candidatures that do not meet the requirements mentioned above, will not be taken into consideration.
  4. Additional information on the results of the past years' programme can be obtained by consulting the following website: **[www.forwomeninscience.com](http://www.forwomeninscience.com)**

#### **F. FACILITIES OFFERED BY UNESCO-L'ORÉAL**

The awards financed by L'ORÉAL, and managed and administered by UNESCO will consist of the following:

- A financial contribution, not to exceed US\$20,000 for each selected beneficiary to support her on-going research proposal;
- Round-trip travel for the selected beneficiaries from their country of residence to Paris, France, (date not yet determined) to attend an awards ceremony (*sine qua non* condition for the award of the fellowship);
- Lodging and pocket money during the stay in Paris for the awards ceremony; and
- A certificate attesting to the special award.

#### **G. SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES**

A special Selection Committee made up of representatives of UNESCO, L'ORÉAL and Life Sciences research community or institutions will make the selection of the candidates.

**Only selected candidates will be contacted by UNESCO.**

Candidates who have **not been informed** of their selection by **31 December 2005** should consider that their applications **have not been approved** in the selection process.