RULES AND REGULATIONS

L'ORÉAL-UNESCO *FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE* INTERNATIONAL AWARDS
2026 EDITION

LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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 and Environmental Sciences or Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science in alternating years.

The 2026 edition of the Awards will designate five outstanding scientific researchers in the fields of Life and Environmental Sciences, 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 10 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 field within the Life and Environmental Sciences mentioned in appendix 1,

There is no age limit for the candidates.

3. Selection Criteria

- The candidate's outstanding contribution to the general 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* 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 for an Award, it is necessary to be nominated in writing 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
- Past *For Women in Science* Award Laureates,
- or at a minimum holders of a PhD in Science.

Nominations can only be submitted electronically through the online-dedicated platform: www.forwomeninscience.com and must be written in English.

On the new application platform, previous nominators will be asked to reset their password the first time they log in 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 the following documents:

- A brief explanation of why the nominator considers the candidate eligible for the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* International Awards (200-400 words).
- A suggested quotation for the general audience if the candidate is selected. This should be a concise statement (maximum of 40 words) describing the key technical or professional accomplishments for which the candidate deserves the Award. *Note that the Jury will agree on the final Laureates' statements.*
- A detailed Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 to 3 pages). The nominator must 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 publications of the nominee.
- 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, received after the deadline (July 4th 2025), or that do not meet the requirements mentioned above, will not be taken into consideration.

Nominations are valid for two cycles of the International Awards in Life and Environmental Sciences. Unsuccessful nominations submitted for the 2026 edition will be held on file and nominators will be invited to update their candidates' information when the next call for nominations for the International Awards in Life and Environmental sciences goes out (spring 2027 for the 2028 edition).

5. Laureate Selection

- **Peer review pre-selection**

Through a peer review process, an expert panel from a variety of disciplines in Life and Environmental sciences will examine all submitted nominations.

After the experts' evaluation, a shortlist of around 10 candidates per each of the five regions will be sent for assessment to the *For Women in Science* International Jury in Life and Environmental sciences.

- **Jury selection**

The *For Women in Science* International Jury in Life and Environmental sciences is chaired by Professor Brigitte L. Kieffer, *Professor USIAS at University of Strasbourg France; INSERM Research Director Emeritus; Member of the French Academy of Sciences;* 2014 L'Oréal-UNESCO Laureate for Europe, and composed of distinguished members of the international scientific community.

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

At the Jury's deliberation meeting, which will be held in December 2025, the Jury will review and discuss the best nominations for each region. The Jury will select 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 to the Laureates after the deliberation 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 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 notably commit to:

- Participate in the Awards ceremony and all the 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 during the Laureates' trip.
- Keep the announcement confidential until the official announcement and not contact the media before that time.

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 images 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: **May 12th, 2025**
Nominations closing date: **July 4th, 2025**
Pre-selection by peer review: **early September to early October 2025**
Examination by the Jury: **mid-October to mid-November 2025**
Jury deliberation meeting: **December 2025**
For Women in Science week: **June 2026 (to be determined)**
For Women in Science Awards Ceremony: **June 2026 (to be determined)**

APPENDIX 1 - **LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**[1]

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	BASIC MEDECINE	CLINICAL MEDECINE	HEALTH SCIENCES	HEALTH BIOTECHNOLOGY	EARTH & RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES	AGRICULTURE SCIENCES
- Biochemistry - Bioengineering - Cell biology - Reproductive biology - Extremophyle biology - Evolutionary biology (Anthropology, Archeobiology) - Human biology - Marine biology, freshwater biology, limnology - Molecular biology - Theoretical and mathematical biology - Biophysics - Biotechnology - Stem cells - Chronobiology - Cryobiology - Ecology - Embriology and Developmental biology - Enzymology - Epigenetics - Ethology - Genetics and heredity - Immunology - Metabolism - Biochemical research methods - Microbiology - Mycology - Neuroscience - Paleonthology - Cell physiology - Biodiversity conservation - Radiobiology - Plant sciences, botany - Symbiosis - Virology - Zoology, Ornithology, Entomology, Behavioral sciences biology	- Anatomy and morphology - Medicinal chemistry - Human genetics - Immunology - Neurosciences (including psychophysiology) - Pathology - Pharmacology and pharmacy - Physiology (including cytology) - Toxicology	- Allergy - Andrology - Anesthesiology - Respiratory systems - Surgery - Dentistry, oral surgery and medicine - Dermatology and venereal diseases - Endocrinology and metabolism (including diabetes, hormones) - Gastroenterology and hepatology - Geriatrics and gerontology - Hematology - Peripheral vascular disease - Critical care medicine and Emergency medicine - General and internal medicine - Obstetrics and gynecology - Oncology - Ophthalmology - Orthopedics - Otorhinolaryngology - Pediatrics - Psychiatry - Radiology, nuclear medicine and medical imaging - Rheumatology - Cardiac and Cardiovascular systems - Transplantation - Urology and nephrology	- Epidemiology - Infectious diseases - Occupational health - Tropical medicine - Nutrition, Dietetics - Parasitology - Public and environmental health - Sport and fitness sciences - Substance abuse	- Biomaterials (as related to medical implants, devices, sensors) - Health-related biotechnology - Forensic science - Technologies involving identifying the functioning of DNA, proteins (gene-based diagnostics and therapeutic interventions, pharmacogenomics, gene editing and recombinants) - Technologies involving the manipulation of cells, tissues, organs or the whole organism (assisted reproduction)	- Contamination & waste management - Ecology - Geochemistry and geophysics - Physical geography - Geology - Geosciences, multidisciplinary - Meteorology and atmospheric sciences - Mineralogy - Oceanography, Hydrology, Water resources - Paleontology - Climatic research - Soil science - Environmental sciences - Volcanology	- Agriculture - Agronomy, plant breeding and plant protection - Agricultural biotechnology and food biotechnology - Agricultural chemistry - Livestock cloning, marker assisted selection, diagnostics (DNA chips and biosensing devices for the early/accurate detection of diseases) - Animal husbandry - Agricultural engineering - Horticulture, viticulture - Fishery - Phytopothology - Animal and dairy science - Soil science - Veterinary science - Forestry - GM technology (crops and livestock) - Biomass feedstock production technologies, biopharming

[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