



# Higher Education Commission

H-9, Islamabad (Pakistan)

Phone +92 51 90402856 (Off.) Facsimile +92 519040 1602

Email: [saroshan@hec.gov.pk](mailto:saroshan@hec.gov.pk)

No. HEC/GE/UNESCO/2024/1469

Dated Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Subject: **Dissemination of Information on the 2025 L'OREAL-UNESCO for Women in Science International Awards**

I have been directed to refer to the self-explanatory letter no. F.6-7/2019-UNESCO-Sc dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 from the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU) regarding the subject cited above.

02. The letter refers to the 2025 edition of the prize which was initiated in 1998 and has since celebrated 132 laureates. This year, five exceptional laureates will receive an award of € 100,000 in recognition of their scientific achievements. The categories for the awards may be found on the last page of this document.

03. Please note that the person must be nominated by an eminent scientist and **self-nominations are not acceptable. The deadline for the nominations is Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.** Please go through the enclosed documents and visit the following link to get further information. Applications can be made through the same website (link is also available on the covering email):

<https://www.forwomeninscience.com/>

04. For purpose of record-keeping and mapping of nominees for consideration in similar awards, kindly share a copy of the nomination with the undersigned along with the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO.

05. The information may be forwarded to your researchers interested in applying.

(Syed Ali Roshan)

Assistant Director (Global Engagement)

**Director/In-charge International Collaboration Office**

All Public and Private Sector HEIs of Pakistan

**Copy for Information:**

- i. PS to Executive Director, Higher Education Commission
- ii. PS to Advisor (QA & GE), Higher Education Commission
- iii. PS to Assistant Secretary General, Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO
- iv. PS to Registrar, All Public and Private Sector HEIs of Pakistan



Government of Pakistan,  
Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training  
Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO  
30 - UNESCO House, H-8/1, Islamabad, Pakistan.  
Tel + 92-51-9101342 Fax: +92-51-9101338 E-mail: [pncuibd@dsl.net.pk](mailto:pncuibd@dsl.net.pk)



No.F.6-7/2019-UNESCO-Sc

10<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

Subject: **DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE 2025 L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS**

I hope this letter finds you well. On behalf of UNESCO, I am pleased to inform you that the **L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programme** has launched the call for nominations for the 2025 International Awards. This prestigious program recognizes and rewards the contributions of outstanding women researchers in the fields of Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Computer Science.

2. The 2025 edition will honor five exceptional laureates from the following regions: Africa and the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America. Each laureate will receive an award of €100,000 in recognition of their significant scientific achievements. Since its inception in 1998, the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Awards have celebrated 132 laureates, including seven who have subsequently won the Nobel Prize. The following is a brief overview of the aforementioned award:

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Recognized for scientific excellence by the international scientific community.
- Actively involved in scientific research.
- Working in any of the scientific fields listed in the attached appendix.
- No age limit for candidates.

**Selection Criteria:**

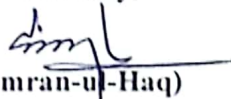
- Outstanding contribution to the advancement of science.
- Impact of research on the current state of the relevant scientific field (publications, patents, etc.)
- Recognition by peers through publications and other scientific achievements.
- Commitment to education, teaching, mentoring, and/or the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

**Nominations:**

- Must be nominated by an eminent scientist (self-nominations are not eligible).
- Qualified nominators include heads of universities, members of academies of science, holders of research chairs, full professors, former laureates, and PhD holders in science.
- Nominations must be submitted online by **Monday, July 1st, 2024**, through the dedicated platform: **L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Nomination Platform**.

3. We would greatly appreciate it if you could disseminate this information to renowned scientists, partner institutions, and other relevant stakeholders in country to ensure that the best women researchers from each region are nominated and recognized for their excellence. Additionally, we ask that this information be displayed prominently on your website. Additionally, upon submission of nominations, we kindly request that you intimate this office for record-keeping purposes.

Sincerely,

  
(Imran-ul-Haq)

Assistant Secretary General

**Executive Director,**  
Higher Education Commission, H-9, Islamabad

**Joint Scientific Adviser (IL)**  
Ministry of Science & Technology, Islamabad.



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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 30<sup>th</sup> 2024**

Nominations closing date: **Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 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 SCIENCE<sup>1</sup>

### FORMAL SCIENCES

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

### PHYSICAL SCIENCES

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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