



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للثقافة والعلم والتربية

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Sector for External Relations and Co-operation
Division of Relations with Organizations and New Partnerships

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

Ref.: ERC/RPO/FEL.oms/07.001

8 May 2006

Subject: UNESCO-L'ORÉAL Co-Sponsored Fellowships for Young
Women in Life Sciences - 2007

Madam/Sir,

On behalf of the Director-General, I have the pleasure of informing you that L'ORÉAL has generously agreed to renew the offer to finance fifteen 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. In addition, L'OREAL had offered to raise the value of each fellowship from US\$ 20,000 to US\$ 40,000 and to extend its duration to two years for each fellow fulfilling the requirements stated in annex.

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.

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 four) to duly complete, sign and return the required forms and documents. All the applications should be sent by **15 September 2006** to UNESCO, Fellowships Programme Section, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris (an advance copy may be sent by fax: 33.1.45.68.55.03).

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, who demonstrate outstanding intellectual qualities, imagination and personal commitment, will have a 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish at the end.

Ahmed Sayyad

UNESCO-L'ORÉAL Co-Sponsored Fellowships for Young Women in Life Sciences – 2007

A. INTRODUCTION

Within the framework of the UNESCO Co-Sponsored Fellowships Scheme, a joint programme has been launched with L'ORÉAL with a view to promoting the contribution of young women - from all over the world – in research developments in the field of life sciences. 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 among the young women community, deserve to be supported and 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**. Projects involving animal models are rejected and preference is given to non cosmetic researches.

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

C. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants (maximum four 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 old. Thus, applicants born before 1 January 1972 will not be considered under this programme.
- 3- Preference will be given to candidates already possessing at the time of application a Ph.D. degree (or equivalent) in the field of the life sciences. However, candidatures from students pursuing studies/research leading to a Ph.D. degree (or equivalent) will also be entertained.

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

5- Candidates must be proficient in reading and writing the language of instruction in the proposed country of study.

6- Applicants must be in good health, both physically and mentally.

D. CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION:

1. Field of study: Life Sciences
2. Closing date for receipt of applications: 15 September 2006
3. Duration of proposed study/ of the research:
Phase I: 12 months
Phase II: 12 months

Proposals should be submitted for two phases, with the possibility to conclude the first phase if the second is not approved; the first phase being for a period of 12 months and the second for another possible 12 months.

4. Duration of stay in the host country/laboratory:

At least half of each phase of research duration **should** be undertaken abroad.

5. Possible date of commencing the project :

Phase I: Any time between 1 March 2007 & 1 March 2008
Phase II: after termination of Phase I

6. Place of study:

At least one country abroad (for a minimum duration of 12 months and a maximum duration of 22 months). The applicant is requested to complete the studies in her own country for a minimum of two months.

7. Requirements for Phase II of the fellowship:

The following documents should be submitted before 15 November 2007:

- i- Three letters of recommendation issued, the first by the host institution, the second by the research supervisors at the host institution and the third from the academic institution/laboratory in the fellow's home country;
- ii- A detailed budget estimate specifying how the Phase II grant will be invested.

8. 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 a maintenance, she should inform UNESCO immediately and her application will be reviewed and may be withdrawn.

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 and enclosed application forms. Each Member State may nominate **not more than four candidatures**. It is the National Commission's responsibility to select **not more than four** candidates that it wishes to submit to UNESCO. **The National Commission is also invited to seek the cooperation of the local scientific community to ensure high standard candidatures that will then have more chances of being selected.** The application(s) should reach the Fellowships Programme Section (ERC/RPO/FEL), UNESCO (7, Place de Fontenoy 75352 Paris 07P) before 15 September 2006. An advance copy may be sent by fax on the following number: 00.33.1.45.68.55.03.

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 either of 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 signed by the competent authority.
 - 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 that the reasons of 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 the suggested duration of research which should be of twelve months minimum and of 24 months maximum divided into two independent phases, each lasting one year; bearing in mind that at least two months should be undertaken in the home country.
- **How much?** A detailed budget estimate indicating the resources required for the candidate to undertake the proposed research. The amount should not exceed USD20,000 per phase. All figures must be shown in US dollars and must be stated on a separate page. The total 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 realistic in compiling their estimated budgets, and consider that an average of USD1500 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 allocate the greatest importance to originality and quality. Consideration will be given only to well-structured projects that demonstrate innovation, creativity and relevance, and which are likely to contribute to enhance 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

F. FACILITIES OFFERED BY UNESCO-L'ORÉAL

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

- A financial contribution, not to exceed USD20,000 per phase 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.
- 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. The International Basic Science Programme (IBSP) will be also consulted during the selection process. A member of the IBSP may take part in the selection.

Only selected candidates will be contacted by UNESCO.

Candidates who have **not been informed** of their selection by **31 December 2006** should consider that their applications **have not been approved** in the selection process.

**UNESCO-L'ORÉAL Co-Sponsored Fellowships for
Young Women in Life Sciences - 2007**

INFORMATION SHEET

Family name:
First name:
Country:
Date of birth:
e-mail:

Field of research:
Project title:
Name of Host Institution:
Name of Supervisor:
Full Address of Host Institution:

Duration of the project:

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------|----|
| Phase I: | months | from: | to |
| Phase II: | months | from: - | to |

I certify that the above information is complete and accurate.

Signature

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

- ◇ The application duly filled and signed by the candidate, in English or in French, and endorsed by the appropriate authority of the country that is the **National Commission** for UNESCO of the candidate country.
- ◇ Two photos
- ◇ Certified copies of your diplomas or a PhD registration proof in English or in French in duplicate.
- ◇ Original or certified copies of the degrees and the transcript of records in duplicate, in English or in French.
- ◇ A list of publications, if any.
- ◇ Recommendation letters (one for phase I and three for phase II).
- ◇ The language proficiency certificate (enclosed UNESCO Form) duly filled and signed.
- ◇ Acceptance of Host Institution in English or in French mentioning:
 - the name of your supervisor.
 - the duration of your stay abroad with exact dates of the beginning as well as the end of your research there.
- ◇ A detailed description for each phase of your research project and the expected results in English or in French.
- ◇ Two detailed budgets (a separate budget for each phase) **in USD**.

NB: Do not bind the submitted documents.
Double check that all documents are provided for both phases

Reserved for the Fellowships Programme Section:

Date of receipt:

Remarks: