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**Subject: UNESCO-L'ORÉAL Co-Sponsored Fellowships for Young  
Women in Life Sciences  
2005**

Madam/Sir,

On behalf of the Director-General, I have pleasure in informing you that, within the framework of the UNESCO Co-Sponsored Fellowships Scheme, L'ORÉAL has generously agreed to renew the offer to finance 15 (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.

Aware of your Government's interest in the promotion and the enhancement of the role of youth and women, we are confident that it will attach great importance to these fellowships and will be in a position to disseminate this offer widely. 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.

.../...

To : National Commissions for UNESCO  
Permanent Delegations to UNESCO  
Selected scientific institutes

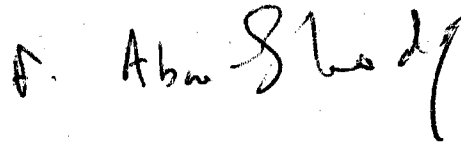
The target group, eligibility criteria, conditions for application, application procedures and terms of the fellowships are set out in the annex to this letter. To enable the Selection Committee to make the best possible choice, I should be grateful if you would arrange for your country's candidates, **maximum two**, to complete and attach – in as detailed a manner as possible – the required forms and documents. All the applications should be sent by **15 September 2004** to UNESCO, Fellowships Section, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris (an advance copy may be sent by fax: 33.1.45.68.55.03).

**Should your National Commission have already submitted applications not selected in the 2004 cycle of this programme, you may, if you so wish, 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, who demonstrate outstanding intellectual qualities, imagination and personal commitment, will have any 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.



Farida Abou-Shady (Ms)  
Chief,  
Fellowships Section  
Division of Relations  
with Member States

Enclosures: 2

**UNESCO-L'ORÉAL Co-Sponsored fellowships  
for Young Women in Life Sciences  
2005**

**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 taking place in 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 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 1970 will not be considered in this programme.
3. Preference will be given to candidates already possessing at the time of application 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.

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. **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 2004**
4. **Possible date of commencing research:** **Any time between  
1 March 2005 and 1 March 2006**
5. **Place of study:** **One (1) 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**

(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).

6. **Study arrangements:** **Research must be carried out under  
the auspices of an academic  
supervisor in a host institution**
7. **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 (2) candidatures**. It is the National Commission's responsibility to select the two candidates 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 2004** and an advance copy may be sent by fax to: 33.1.45.68.55.03.

The application **must** have the following attachments:

- i) The UNESCO Fellowship application form duly completed, **in English or in French**, in duplicate. **Two recent photographs (obligatory)** should be included with the form.
- ii) 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.
- iii) A list of publications, if any.
- iv) A letter of recommendation from someone familiar with the candidate's work.

- iii) A list of publications, if any.
- iv) A letter of recommendation from someone familiar with the candidate's work.
- v) 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 that the host institute confirms its willingness to provide the relevant training facilities required by the candidate in the chosen field of specialization.
- vi) 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).
- vii) **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 (one only) 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 **six** months minimum and of **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 realistic in compiling their proposed budgets, and consider that an average of US\$1000/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.

**Note:**

- 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.
- 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.

viii) An e-mail address regularly used by the candidate.

**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.

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.

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)

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

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

- i) A financial contribution, not to exceed **US\$20,000** for each selected beneficiary to support her on-going research proposal.
- ii) - Round-trip travel for the selected beneficiary from her country to UNESCO Headquarters to attend (*sine qua non* condition for the award of the fellowship) an awards ceremony (date not yet determined)
  - Meals and lodging to be covered directly by L'ORÉAL
  - Pocket money during a 5-day stay in Paris, France, for the awards ceremony.
  - A certificate attesting to the special award.

Note: No provision to finance or lodge family members will be made.

#### **F. 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 2004** should consider that their applications **have not been approved** in the selection process.