



RULES AND REGULATIONS

L'ORÉAL–UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE **MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL YOUNG TALENTS PROGRAM** **2026**

1. Introduction

L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Middle East Regional Young Talents program aims to promote the participation of young women in science coming from **Yemen and GCC Countries including UAE, KSA, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman**. This program identifies and rewards talented young female researchers in the field of Life Sciences (such as biology, biochemistry, biophysics, genetics, physiology, neurosciences, biotechnologies, health sciences/COVID-19, ecology and ethology) as well as Physical Sciences (such as physics, chemistry, petroleum engineering, mathematics, engineering sciences, information sciences, Earth and Universe sciences).

The Program honors **six talented young Arab female researchers** for the quality of their research works and encourages them to pursue a brilliant career in science in Yemen and GCC countries.

- **3 grants amounting to twenty thousand Euros (€20,000 or equivalent in local currency)** each will be granted to Arab women researchers working in Research Laboratory, Institute, or University in one of the following countries: UAE, KSA, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Yemen.
- **3 grants amounting to eight thousand Euros (€8,000 or equivalent in local currency)** each will be granted to Arab women pursuing a PhD (doctoral degree) in Research Laboratory, Institute, or University in one of the following countries: UAE, KSA, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Yemen. The total amount must be used to cover expenses related to regional or international scientific missions, trainings, specialized courses, conferences, and congresses. It could be used as well to purchase special software, scientific articles/ books and fees of publications in international indexed journals.

The L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Middle East Regional Young Talents Program are granted by the L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO.

2. Eligibility Criteria

A- Postdoctoral Researches:

Applicants must meet the following general criteria:

- Being an Arab national.
- Having obtained a PhD in one of the science fields mentioned in paragraph 1.
- Working in a Research Laboratory, Institute, or University in one of the countries mentioned in paragraph 1.
- Candidates must be no more than 45 years old (Born in 1981 and beyond, taking into account the year of birth).
- Early-career researchers who are actively engaged in research activities are also eligible. Having obtained a PhD within the last 10 years at the time of application. This 10-year period takes into account career breaks such as maternity leave, medical leave or equivalent. Early-career researchers must meet all general criteria mentioned above regarding the nationality, affiliation and age limit.

B- PhD Students:

Applicants must meet the following general criteria:

- Being an Arab national.
- Having obtained a Bachelor (B.Sc.) and a Master (M.Sc.) degree, or equivalent, in one of the science fields mentioned in paragraph 1.
- Should be full time student in PhD and having registered during 2025-2026 in the 2nd year of the PhD program, or one year before the thesis defense.
- Working in a Research Laboratory, Institute, or University in one of the countries mentioned in paragraph 1.
- Candidates must be no more than 35 years old (born in 1991 and beyond, taking into account the year of birth).

3. Selection Criteria

The selection criteria of the candidate by the jury are the following:

- A. The candidate's outstanding academic record (including number, quality and impact of the publications, conference presentations, patents...).
- B. The scientific quality of the research project.
- C. Abide by international ethical regulations in all research steps.
- D. The innovative approach (rationale, relevance, originality, outputs, applications, etc.) and the expected outcomes of the research.
- E. The ability of the candidate to communicate and promote sciences to a younger audience and to encourage young Arab female researchers.
- F. The candidate's career-path.
- G. The application will be considered complete if it contains a detailed description of the research project and its methodology.
- H. Consideration with regards to animal testing:
 - H.1. Any project using experimental protocols likely to generate animal suffering will be rejected, even if it has been approved by an ad hoc ethics committee

- H. 2. If animal experimentation is to be conducted as part of the applicant's submitted research, it must be described in detail and indicated in what way it cannot be substituted. The necessity of the animal experiments or the lack of alternatives must be justified. Jury members must take a position based on these elements or ask for clarification if necessary.
- H. 3. A commitment by the candidate not to cause animal suffering during the project for which she is applying for the award will be included in the application forms and must be officially signed.

Grants are exclusively dedicated to the development of scientific research and can under no circumstance be a substitute to the duties of the laboratory vis-à-vis its researchers.

Grants are non-renewable and can be combined with other research grants.

4. Applications

Applications can only be submitted through the online platform: www.forwomeninscience.com by the candidates themselves.

An application is considered complete only if it includes all below documents

A - Postdoctoral Researchers:

- Copies of the degrees or recent diplomas: PhD certificate, M.Sc. and B.Sc. (or equivalent), etc.
- The research project description including the institution and/or country of implementation. The proposed use of the grant and some budget indications
- CV Including:
 - o Professional career: awarded fellowships, previous post-doctoral trainings, scientific visits, workshops, previous jobs, and various distinctions, etc.
 - o Previous achievements of the candidate in her field of research (short list - not to exceed 50 words)
 - o Scientific production: article, books, conferences, etc.
 - o Candidate's activities having an impact on the development of scientific research in her country (administrative functions related to research, coordination of national and international projects, lecturing, etc. (not to exceed 100 words)
 - o Collaborations and partnerships with foreign institutions (table mentioning the type of collaboration, project title, partner institution, researchers, project funding, achievements, etc.)
- A signed declaration attesting to the adherence of international ethical norms and regulations in all research aspects (experimental design, data collection, analysis, publications, applications, etc.) as part of previous/ongoing research activities. "I, [Your Full Name], hereby declare that all my previous research activities, including my doctoral, postdoctoral work and the proposed research project, have been and will continue to be carried out in full compliance with international ethical norms and regulations, covering all aspects including but not limited to experimental design, data collection, analysis, publication, and any applications thereof. [Signature] [Date] "

- Letters of recommendation from the research supervisor and/or the director of the scientific institution where the research project is carried or the Dean of the Faculty or the President of the University under which the candidate is running her research.
- Letter of intent outlining the targeted activities and including a comprehensive provisional budget. This budget must clearly indicate the planned use of the grant, detailing estimated costs for each activity such as scientific missions, trainings, specialized courses, software, regional and international conferences, publications fees and other research expenses. The budget must also explicitly detail any justified personal expenses directly related to and facilitating the candidate's research work.
- The list of publications, oral communications, and patents pertinent to the project proposal for the last 5 years only.

B - PhD Students:

- CV including:
 - Administrative overview about the PhD: starting date, expected date of graduation, Supervisor, institution, scholarship, etc.
 - Previous achievements of the candidate in her field of research (short list - not to exceed 50 words)
 - Scientific production: article, books, conferences, etc.
 - Candidate's activities having an impact on the development of scientific research in her country (administrative functions related to research, coordination of national and international projects, lecturing, etc. (not to exceed 100 words)
 - Collaborations and partnerships with foreign institutions (table mentioning the type of collaboration, project title, partner institution, researchers, project funding, achievements, etc.)
- The Thesis research project including the progress achieved and related publications or communications.
- Copies of the degrees or recent diplomas: certificates of B.Sc. and M.Sc., or equivalent.
- Letter from the University certifying that during 2024-2025 the candidate is in the second year or the year preceding the submission of the doctoral thesis.
- Letters of recommendation from the thesis advisor and/or the director of the scientific institution where the thesis research project is carried or the Dean of the Faculty or the President of the University under which the candidate is running her thesis research.
- Letter of intent outlining the targeted activities and including a comprehensive provisional budget. This budget must clearly indicate the planned use of the grant, detailing estimated costs for each activity such as scientific missions, trainings, specialized courses, software, regional and international conferences, publications fees and other research expenses. The budget must also explicitly detail any justified personal expenses directly related to and facilitating the candidate's research work.
- A signed declaration attesting to the adherence of international ethical norms and regulations in all research aspects (experimental design, data collection, analysis, publications, applications, etc.) as part of the ongoing PhD thesis. "I, [Your Full Name], hereby declare that all research activities conducted as part of my ongoing PhD thesis, and any subsequent research, have been and will continue to be carried out in full compliance with international ethical norms and regulations, covering all aspects including but not limited to experimental design, data collection, analysis, publication, and any applications thereof. [Signature] [Date]"

Files which are incomplete, or which are received after the application deadline, as well as candidatures that do not meet the requirements mentioned above shall not be taken into consideration.

5. Winners Selection

Candidates will be selected by the *For Women in Science* Middle East regional jury chaired by the President of jury, Prof. Marie Abboud.

The results will be communicated by phone and email to the six winners after deliberations of the jury in charge of granting the Endowments. The results will have to remain confidential until officially announced by L'Oréal Middle East.

The decision of the jury cannot be contested or subject to explanation or justification.

6. Winners Commitment

Winners must commit to:

- Pursue the research work for which the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Middle East Regional Young Talents Program was obtained, failing that, the total amount of the grant must be immediately refunded to UNESCO that awarded the amount.
- Within one year after receiving their grants, winners are expected to submit a status report on the awarded research project to L'Oréal Middle East.
- Within one year after receiving their grants, winners are expected to submit to L'Oréal Middle East a final financial expenditure statement on the actual grant expenditure incurred on the research project.
- The winners will be expected to attend the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Middle East Regional Young Talents ceremony. Exact date will be announced at a later stage.
- Attendance is mandatory. The travel and accommodation expenses for the winners will be covered by L'Oréal Middle East.

Endowment payments are made directly to the winners before the end of 2026 and after having signed the contract and after receiving the original documents necessary for the bank transfer. The endowments are not transferable for any other purpose whatsoever.

7. Communication

Winners shall mention the grant "L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Middle East Regional Young Talents Program", in all publications and other forms of media communication, including media appearances, press releases and conferences, that result from or are in any way connected to the research project wherever possible. Winners must inform L'Oréal Middle East of any publications and other forms of media communication as above.

Winners agree to be photographed, filmed and interviewed for noncommercial 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, photographs, social media and brochures including distribution to the media in the GCC

countries, Yemen and worldwide. A separate written authorization shall be signed by each of the winners. Winners will not receive any remuneration for such promotional activity.

8. Provisional Timetable

- Application opening date: 5th of January 2026
- Application closing date: 30th of April 2026
- Attribution of applications and review by the jury members: 1st of May 2026 until 30th of June 2026
- Selection and announcement of winners: July 2026
- Awards Ceremony: Exact date to be announced

9. Rules and Regulations

By applying to L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Middle East Regional Young Talents Program, candidates agree to the rules and regulations posted on the online platform www.forwomeninscience.com