



RULES and REGULATIONS
L'OREAL– UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE
Slovakia - talent programme
2026 EDITION

Please carefully read the eligibility criteria. Some restrictions apply.

1. Introduction

Created in 2016, the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science, Slovakia - talent program aim to promote young women's participation in science. The program identifies and rewards talented young **female researchers in Formal sciences** such as Information Technology and Information Science and Mathematics; **Life and environmental sciences** such as Biological, Clinical, Basic Medical and Health Sciences, **Physical Sciences and Engineering Sciences and Technology** (See attached the document with disciplines.).

The 10th year of the unique project "**For Women in Science**" sponsored by The L'Oréal Česká republika, branch L'Oréal Slovensko and supported by Slovak commission of UNESCO, Slovak academy of Science (SAS), Slovak Organization for Research and Development activities (SOVVA) is open.

Applications can be submitted by female Slovak scientists (or foreign nationality but demonstrably working in Slovak science or doing research in an institution in Slovakia for at least one year).

The jury will select **three winners** and **award 7.000 EUR each**. All the required information, including the entry form, is available on www.forwomeninscience.com.

Do not hesitate and apply because:
The world needs science and science needs women!

2. Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria for the scientists participating in the project:

Doctoral degree in a doctoral study programme in **Formal sciences** such as Information Technology and Information Science and Mathematics; **Life and environmental sciences** such as Biological, Clinical, Basic Medical and Health Sciences; **Physical Sciences** and **Engineering Sciences and Technology** (see list in [annex](#)).

- Relevant research to be implemented in Slovakia.
- The award of **7.000 EUR** to be used to support research in Slovakia.
- Applicants limit of age is 40 years old (including).
- **Slovak nationality or a foreign nationality, but demonstrably working in Slovak science or doing research in an institution in Slovakia for at least one year.** The award is intended for research conducted in the Slovakia for the length of the following one year.

The path to the award is then completely open. The entry forms of 10th year of the project For Women in Science can be submitted
from 1st February 2026 to 30th April 2026.

3. Application Form and Supporting Documents

Eligible applicants must provide, **in English**:

- a) **A duly completed application form** (applications can only be submitted electronically through the online platform: www.forwomeninscience.com)
- b) **A copy of Ph.D. degree** (scan of original diploma),
- d) **Professional curriculum vitae** (CV),
- c) **Recommendation of a superior researcher** or head of the research institution where the project will be implemented (in the English language).
- d) **Number of publications** (Web of Science / Scopus) incl. the number of WOS / Scopus quotes.
- e) **Selection of the most important publications** (max.10) including the number of quotes for mentioned work and short comment by the applicant in the English language as to the importance of the results published.
- f) **Motivation letter** – with the maximum scope of 1 page.
- g) **A detailed description of the research project of 2 pages maximum:**
If the scientific project includes animal tests, the document of the ethics committee's approval.

Every applicant needs to honestly declare that if the scientific project they apply will include tests on animals, they are carried out in accordance with



the requirements of the Animal Protection Act and the requirements of the relevant professional commissions.

If animal experiments are carried out as part of the submitted research project, these experiments must be described in detail. The necessity of animal experiments or **the lack of alternatives must be justified**.

h) **For scientists with foreign nationality only:** Prove of employment - confirmation of the length of employment in a Slovak institution.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

- An application will be considered complete if it contains a detailed description of the research project and its methodology.
- No paper applications are accepted.

All applications must be registered online by April 30th, 2026.

4. Evaluation and Selection Process

- a) **Jury Selection:** The selection of successful applicants is conducted by a panel of regional scientists. These experts are appointed by the Chairwoman of the Jury, based on nominations proposed by the President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.
- b) **Evaluation Panel:** All applications will be reviewed by a panel comprising experts from diverse disciplines, including Formal Sciences, Life and Environmental Sciences, Physical Sciences and Engineering and Technology Sciences. Candidates will be evaluated strictly in accordance with the criteria specified above.
- c) **Online Evaluation:** Following the submission deadline, the expert jury will conduct the evaluation process online via the official platform: www.forwomeninscience.com.
- d) **Final Selection and Categories:** Upon completion of the evaluation, three winners will be selected. The Chairwoman will review the top-ranked applicants across the following scientific fields:
 - **Formal Sciences** (e.g., Information Technology, Information Science, and Mathematics);
 - **Life and Environmental Sciences** (e.g., Biological, Clinical, Basic Medical, and Health Sciences);
 - **Physical Sciences, Engineering, and Technology.** A detailed list of eligible disciplines is provided in the [document](#).

- e) **Finality of Decision:** The Chairwoman of the Jury will designate the highest-ranked project from each category as the winner. Her decision is final, binding, and without appeal. The Jury's deliberations are confidential, and the decision is not subject to further explanation, justification, or contestation.
- f) **Notification and Confidentiality:** Winners will be notified of the results via telephone or email following the conclusion of the deliberation process. All results must remain strictly confidential until the official public announcement (the format and date of which will be specified later).
- g) **Media Engagement and Award Ceremony:** The three winners will participate in the filming of a professional video profile (medallion) showcasing their research and will receive media training provided by the "For Women in Science" team prior to the public announcement. The winners will be officially honored at a Gala Evening in 2026 or beginning of the year 2027 (details to be confirmed). Furthermore, winners are expected to participate in media interviews in the months following the ceremony.
- h) **Reserved Rights:** The Jury reserves the right to select the winners at its sole discretion. Should the Jury determine that no project within a specific category meets the required standards or is worthy of an award, it reserves the right to select an additional winner from another category.

5. Commitments

- a) Pursue the research in Slovakia at least next 12 months.
- b) Participate in the official events and the various interviews organized in 2026/2027 around the topic "For Women in Science" including panel discussions, seminars etc.
- c) Keep the announcement about results/winning confidential until the official announcement and not to contact the media.

6. Communications

The L'Oréal - UNESCO For Women in Science in Slovakia winners 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 audio-visual media including but not limited to written press, television, internet, outdoor display, corporate publications, exhibitions, in Slovak Republic and worldwide.



The image of the L'Oréal - UNESCO For Women in Science can be used for the promotion of science among the younger generation, particularly young women. A separate written authorization will be signed by each of the winners.

7. Payment

The payment of the Awards (EUR 7.000 each) will be made by partner SOVVA directly to the winners after the official announcement, and after having received the necessary original documents for the wire transfer of funds.

9. Rules

By responding to the call for applications for the L'Oréal - UNESCO For Women in Science in Slovakia, the candidate is deemed to have accepted these rules.

10. Provisional Timetable

- Opening of online platform: 1st February 2026
- Applications closing date: 30th April 2026
- Evaluation by jury: 1st May to 5th June 2026
- Video medallions filming: June-August 2026
- Official Announcement/Ceremony: September/October 2026 (TBC)

10. Contact us

For questions on the rules, contact us at ivona.karvinen@loreal.com

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