

Frequently Asked Questions

For more information about the L'Oréal - UNESCO For Women in Science UK and Ireland Young Talent Awards, click [here](#).

Applications

Q. How do I apply for the awards?

A. To apply, candidates should follow the below steps:

- Create an account on the platform <https://www.forwomeninscience.com>, click 'login' on the top right corner and register.
- Complete the application form and upload all required documentation - see the [2025 Terms and Conditions](#) for the full list.
- Press 'submit' to finalise your application. Draft applications will not be considered.

Q. How do I find out whether my application is successful?

A. Applicants shortlisted for an interview with the jury panel will be notified in early November. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email. **Note:** Due to the very high volume of applications, we are unable to give individual feedback.

Eligibility

Q. I am not a UK or Irish citizen but am undertaking research in the UK or Ireland, am I eligible?

A. Yes, applications are open to citizens of all countries. Applicants must reside in the UK or Ireland at the time of application and already have a confirmed contract at a university or research institute.

Q. Which fields of research are covered by the awards?

A. The eligible fields of research are as follows: Engineering, Life Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, Physical Sciences, and Sustainable Development

There will be **one Young Talent award recipient** from each of the above-listed research fields. Psychology, Science Education and Social Sciences **are not** eligible for this award.

Q. I am currently working towards my PhD, am I eligible?

A. No. Candidates **must have completed and been awarded** a research doctorate by the time of application. Award money cannot be used as PhD funding.

Q. How do you define a 'permanent academic post'?

A. A permanent academic post is defined as one which includes lecturing and administrative responsibilities alongside research, and which is not dependent on research income but funded from general university/institute funds. It is also for an indefinite period, but may be terminated on notice.

Q. Am I able to hold the award on a part-time basis?

A. Award recipients can take up the award to pursue their research project either full-time or on a part-time basis.

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Eligibility

Q. What is counted as no more than ten years active full-time equivalent postdoctoral experience?

- A.** Candidates must have no more than ten years active full-time equivalent postdoctoral experience. **This does not include career breaks, such as maternity leave, carer leave, ill health, EU national service and voluntary service overseas, but it does include teaching experience and/or time spent in industry.**

In addition to the actual time taken off work, an additional amount of time equivalent to 100% of the duration of leave taken will be added on top, up to a maximum of six months e.g. for four months leave, an additional four months would be added and a total of eight months would be deducted from the postdoctoral experience.

Ten years is counted from the time the application is submitted, and part-time work is counted on a pro-rata basis. There is no 'maximum time' that can be added, as long as the active postdoctoral experience (excluding breaks) does not exceed ten years.

Q. I am returning to science research after taking a career break. Am I eligible?

- A.** The awards are designed to provide flexible support for women scientists to pursue and continue their research careers in the UK or Ireland. We welcome applications from candidates who wish to establish or re-establish themselves after a career break, or other period of absence from active research or where the candidate is establishing a research career as a mature entrant or after experience in other fields.

Career breaks can include periods such as maternity leave, carer leave, ill health, EU national service and voluntary service overseas. If you are currently returning to scientific research following a career break, please indicate this clearly in your application.

Q. I want to use the Young Talent award to conduct research outside the UK or Ireland. Am I able to do so?

- A.** The award must be held at a UK or Irish university or research institute, and research must be carried out under the auspices of an academic supervisor or mentor at the host institution. However, award holders may conduct field work overseas as part of the UK or Ireland-based research supported by the awards programme.

Q. Do you accept joint applications?

- A.** We do not accept joint applications as the awards are presented to individuals.

Q. I have previously applied for the awards. Can I apply again?

- A.** Candidates who have not been unsuccessful in becoming a finalist may apply again.

Note: If a candidate was previously successful in becoming a finalist and recognised as 'Highly Commended', **they cannot apply again.**

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Required Documentation

Q. Can I submit a paper application?

A. No. We only accept applications made online. You will need to visit www.forwomeninscience.com to create an account and complete an application.

Q. What are the guidelines regarding the format and content of the research proposal?

A. The research proposal **must be a maximum of 600 words** (excluding references). It should include a clear and concise outline of the potential impact of your research and how it will create significant change.

The research proposal must be:

- Submitted as a PDF document.
- Readable and easy to navigate for the reviewers who will be accessing your application electronically. Please use 12-point font and standard margins.

You may include images/figures, or anything else that you feel will emphasise the originality of your research and support your application **as long as your application does not exceed the 600-word limit**.

Q. What should be included in the candidate statement?

A. The candidate statement **must be a maximum of 500 words** and include the following:

- A clear and concise explanation of how the award will enable you to undertake your research and contribute to your career, as well as why the award is important to the funding of your research.
- How this award will help to overcome any obstacles and barriers which may have impeded your career progress to date. Please note that the awards are designed to provide flexible support - **see page 4 for further information**.
- A budget outline with justification for the proposed expenditure. This is an estimate and does not need to include exact figures/quotes or be formally approved by your institution.

The document must be submitted as a PDF. It should be readable and easy to navigate for the reviewers who will be accessing your application electronically.

Q. What is required from the letter of acceptance from my proposed host institution?

A. The letter of acceptance from your proposed host institution must confirm the university or research institute can provide you with the appropriate space, and facilities, for the duration of the 12-month period to undertake the research that the award would support.

The letter of acceptance must be:

- Submitted as a PDF document.
- On headed paper and signed by a representative of the host institution.

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Required Documentation

Q. How many letters of recommendation are required and how should they be submitted?

- A.** To be eligible, your application must include **two** letters of recommendation. These should be written by academic supervisors acquainted with your most recent periods of formal academic study or research, and who have personal knowledge of your qualifications and suitability for the award.

The letters of recommendation must be uploaded into the online portal as part of your application. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure the letters of recommendation are submitted before the deadline. We **do not** accept letters received directly from referees.

Q. To whom should my referees address their letters of recommendation?

- A.** Letters of recommendation should be addressed to "The 2025 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science UK and Ireland Young Talent Award Jury Panel".

Q. Do I need to send degree certificates as supporting documentation?

- A.** You do not need to send us your degree certificates at the time of application. If you are shortlisted for an interview, you will be required to provide certified copies of your undergraduate and postgraduate degree certificates.

Q. What should I do if my research does not fit exactly within the five research fields?

- A.** Please try and find the closest research field in the dropdown list. However, do not worry too much at this stage if your research does not sit comfortably in a specific area. The research fields in the dropdown list help us match your application with a the most appropriate reviewer.

Q. Are research projects that involve animal experiments eligible?

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

Award Payment and Use

Q. What can I use the award money for and what is the payment structure/timing?

- A.** The award is intended to provide flexible support and can be spent by the recipient on any costs that will enable and/or facilitate her research, such as equipment, conference travel, childcare etc. **The award money cannot be used to pay the salary of the award recipient.** Applicants must provide a budget estimate for proposed expenditure in their completed application.

The award will support a 12-month period of postdoctoral research and will be paid in full within six months of the announcement of the 2025 award recipients. Only in exceptional circumstances will a later start date be considered. Recipients are required to submit a final scientific report and a final financial expenditure statement on completion of the 12 months.