

## APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2015 L'ORÉAL-UNESCO UK & IRELAND 'FELLOWSHIPS FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE' - open 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015

30 January 2015.

Applications for the L'Oréal-UNESCO UK and Ireland Fellowships For Women In Science will open on **2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015**. **Five** outstanding female post-doctoral scientists in the UK or Ireland will be granted a fellowship worth £15,000[1] each. The finalists will be selected by a panel of eminent scientists chaired by Professor Pratibha Gai, including Professor John Pethica FRS and Professor Anne Glover. Entries can be made at [www.womeninscience.co.uk](http://www.womeninscience.co.uk).

The L'Oréal-UNESCO UK and Ireland Fellowships For Women In Science were launched in 2007 and provide flexible and practical help to female post-doctoral researchers. The winners may choose to spend their fellowship grants in any way that is helpful to them in furthering their research, from buying lab equipment, to hiring an assistant or paying for childcare costs.

Professor Pratibha Gai of the University of York and the 2013 L'Oréal-UNESCO International For Women In Science European Laureate will Chair the 2015 UK and Ireland awards. Prof Gai commented, "I am excited to be chairing this year's judging panel. I am passionate about giving young women every opportunity to excel in their science research. These highly prestigious awards not only recognise the extraordinary range and quality of research being carried out by female scientists in the UK and Ireland today, but are unique in their flexibility for early career female researchers."

Dr Sneha Malde from the University of Oxford's department of physics was one of the winners of a 2014 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science UK & Ireland Fellowship, for her work exploring & measuring the differences between matter and anti-matter. Dr Malde comments:

"It was wonderful to have recognition of my work. Awards like this raise my profile and increase my chance of success when vying for other grants or jobs. The funds from this award are being used for travel, so that I can spend more time at CERN and attending conferences. This ability to collaborate with others face to face is an invaluable asset to efficient and creative working.

She adds that:

"One of the main challenges to women working in science are those related to balancing a family and work life. This award is helping me overcome these challenges by providing funds to help me take child with me while travelling for work. This has opened up opportunities to

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[1] Equivalent value in Euros for candidates in Ireland

attend meetings and workshops that I would not have otherwise attended as I felt it would have been too much time away from my child”.

The 2015 awards will be adjudicated by a panel of eminent scientists. Katriona Methven, Scientific Director at L'Oréal UK & Ireland said: “The For Women in Science programme in the UK and Ireland provides essential support for women at a vital stage in their career. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year internationally, the global initiative promotes women in science as important role models to inspire a new generation of young scientists.”

The closing date for applications to the 2015 L'Oréal-UNESCO UK and Ireland Fellowships For Women In Science is **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015**. For further information and to apply, please visit: [www.womeninscience.co.uk](http://www.womeninscience.co.uk)

The programme is run in partnership with the UK National Commission for UNESCO and the Irish National Commission for UNESCO, with the support of the Royal Society.

**Ends**

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### **Notes to Editors**

#### **L'Oréal UNESCO For Women In Science background**

The [L'Oréal UNESCO For Women In Science](#) international programme was founded eighteen years ago by L'Oréal and UNESCO on the premise that 'the world needs science and science needs women'. The awards programme is designed to promote and highlight the critical importance of ensuring greater participation of women in science, by awarding promising female scientists with Fellowships to help them further their research. There are three distinct schemes:

- 1.0 The International Laureate Programme: The founding awards provide five leading female scientists, one from each continent, every year with a prestigious laureate of up to £100,000 in recognition of their ground-breaking achievements and contributions to scientific progress. These women are at the cutting edge of their research fields. The international structure of the programme ensures that the laureates are distributed among women who are working under a wide variety of conditions.
- 2.0 The International Fellowships – Rising Talents programme: These Fellowships help young women scientists from around the world take up research positions in other countries, allowing them to pursue their research in some of the world's most prestigious laboratories. There are 15 Fellowships given out each year to support 'the faces of science for tomorrow'.
- 3.0 The National Fellowships, such as the UK and Ireland programme detailed below, are now run in over 46 countries around the world. Each National Fellowship helps women scientists at a critical point in their career to continue to pursue their research with flexible financial aid.

### The L'Oréal UK and Ireland National Fellowships

The **L'Oréal UK and Ireland Fellowships For Women In Science** were launched in January 2007. The Fellowships are run in partnership with the UK National Commission for UNESCO, the Irish National Committee for UNESCO and the Royal Society of Great Britain.

This year, 5 awards of £15,000 will be offered to outstanding female post-doctoral researchers.

The Fellowships have been designed to provide practical help for the winners to continue in their chosen fields. For example, winners may choose to spend their fellowship on buying scientific equipment or paying for childcare costs or indeed whatever they may need to continue their research.

**In total, over 2000 women in over 110 countries have been recognised for their research and received funding to further their studies since the overall programme was founded in 1998**

Please visit [www.womeninscience.co.uk](http://www.womeninscience.co.uk) for case studies on all the women fellowship winners from 2007 to 2014