



L'ORÉAL AUSTRIA [FELLOWSHIPS FOR YOUNG FEMALE RESEARCHERS IN AUSTRIA]

PROGRAMME STATUTES

The world needs research. Research needs women.

L'ORÉAL Austria, in collaboration with the Austrian UNESCO Commission and in cooperation with the Austrian Academy of Sciences, with the financial support of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, awards fellowships for young female basic researchers in the fields of medicine, the natural sciences or mathematics. For the funding, continuation or development of projects in Austria.

Call

L'ORÉAL Austria, in collaboration with the Austrian UNESCO Commission in the framework of the international worldwide cooperation "For Women in Science", is awarding two fellowships to female Austrian basic researchers in the fields of medicine, the natural sciences or mathematics.

Two further fellowships are funded by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research.

The fellowships are for **6–12 months**, are each funded to the amount of **€ 25,000** and cannot be shared. They are awarded in cooperation with the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

This initiative for Austria is intended as a national extension of the joint, worldwide engagement of L'ORÉAL and UNESCO to honour women's contribution to research and to reduce career obstacles for female researchers. The fellowships aim to promote young female scientists with either above-average academic results or significant publications.

Application requirements

Invited to apply for a L'ORÉAL Austria Fellowship are young female scientists in medicine, natural sciences or mathematics who

- started their doctoral/PhD studies no more than three years ago (pre-doc)
or
completed their doctoral/PhD studies no more than four years ago (post-doc),
- are Austrian citizens
or
have lived in Austria for at least three years,

- present a project to be carried out in Austria in the field of basic research in the above-mentioned disciplines (projects in related fields of study that pursue an experimental research approach can also be considered),
and
- can present publications (peer review).

Exceptions

Delays (up to max. 3 years) due to (child) care obligations will be considered. Exceptions must be clarified with the Department of Fellowships & Awards of the OeAW before submitting the application.

Application modalities

Applicants are free to apply to other (fellowship-awarding) bodies. However, such applications and information on their outcome must be communicated in writing to the Department of Fellowships & Awards of the OeAW.

It is not possible to apply for another fellowship program of the OeAW at the same time.

Objective

The fellowships are intended to support young female scientific talent (pre- and post-docs) who are qualified either by above-average academic results or by notable publications.

The aim is to support female researchers who are about to complete their doctoral/PhD studies or who completed their doctoral/PhD studies no more than four years ago (postdoctoral researchers).

In particular, the fellowship is intended for the following cases:

- to complete a dissertation
or
- to prepare a research project for application to (inter)national funding organizations
or
- for reintegration after a research stay abroad or after parental leave.

The project must be carried out in Austria; short project-related stays abroad are possible.

Applications for start-up or interim financing of a dissertation will not be accepted.

Applications for the preparation of a research project for a third-party funding application are also possible if the doctoral/PhD studies have not yet been completed by the submission deadline, but will be completed before the decision on the award of the fellowship (in June/July). In this case, the planned date of completion must be stated in the application.

Amount and duration of funding

The fellowship can be taken up from the time the candidate concerned is notified of the award decision until the end of the year.

Duration of the fellowship

L'ORÉAL Austria fellowships are awarded for a period of 8 - 12 months (pre-docs) or 6 - 8 months (post-docs).

Amount of funding

The amount of the fellowship is 25,000 euros.

The amount can be paid out in full or in two installments (at the beginning and after half of the term).

Use

The fellowship is intended to cover living expenses. Parts of it can also be used for courses, seminars, congresses, short research stays in Germany and abroad, childcare or material resources.

Conditions

Applicants are free to apply to other (fellowship-awarding) bodies. However, such applications and information on their outcome must be communicated in writing to the Department of Fellowships & Awards of the OeAW.

It is not possible to apply for another fellowship program of the OeAW at the same time.

In the event of non-compliance with the fellowship conditions through the applicant's own fault, the funding amount must be repaid.

Selection

The award committee consists of scholars and scientists working at a university or a non-university research institution in Austria. The committee members are nominated by the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

The selection process for a L'ORÉAL Austria Fellowship takes approximately four months.

The selected fellowship holders will be informed in writing after the decision of the awarding committee (usually in mid-July).

No correspondence can be entered into regarding the reasons for or against approval.

Legal recourse is excluded.

Selection criteria

The main selection criterion is the excellence of the applicant's current and past research as well as their plans for future research.

The applicant's scientific qualifications, the innovative content and methodology of the current and future research approaches and the feasibility of the planned projects will be assessed.

Selection procedure

The applications are assigned to the members of the fellowship committee according to the respective subject area. Strict attention is paid to possible reasons for bias. This means that committee members and applicants must not work at the same university or research institution. In addition, possible professional/private or competitive relationships are taken into account.

Pre-selection

In the first selection round, the fellowship committee decides which applications will be reviewed by international experts. If the committee comes to the conclusion that an application does not meet the criteria of the program, it will be rejected.

For the applications that are reviewed externally, the committee members propose suitable reviewers who are active abroad. During the selection process, strict attention is paid to reasons of bias or possible conflicts of interest.

There is no fixed pool of reviewers; for each application, experts are sought who can assess the evaluation based on their own scientific experience or research activities in accordance with international standards in the respective subject area. These reviewers work on a voluntary basis, i.e. they do not receive any financial compensation for their work.

Applicants have the right (e.g. for reasons of competition or due to a school dispute) to exclude up to three scientists from the review process without giving reasons.

Review procedure

At least one review is obtained for each application within the framework of the L'ORÉAL Austria program. In the case of interdisciplinary applications covering several research areas, the number may be increased.

A review consists of a written statement and a formal assessment of the applicant's scientific qualifications and aspects of the research project on a scale of 1-10 (1-2 = inadequate, 9-10 = excellent):

1. scientific qualification of the applicant
2. originality of the research project
3. clarity of the research questions (hypotheses) and methodological structure
4. feasibility of the project (institute equipment, scientific environment)

Finally, the reviewers are asked to provide a summarized recommendation as to whether the application is fully worthy of funding or should be rejected.

If the written statement is not conclusive, a further expert opinion will be obtained. The experts are asked to disclose any possible reasons for bias. If bias is subsequently established, the review will not be evaluated.

Awarding of fellowships

The decision on the selection of fellowship holders is made at the committee meeting.

The committee members rank the applications assigned to them on the basis of the reviews and present them to the committee. The applications are compared; the reviews, but also other criteria - such as course of study and duration, publication performance, mobility - are discussed in detail.

The decision on awarding the fellowships is made by the entire committee.

After receiving the fellowship

Obligations

The fellowship holders undertake to have themselves photographed for public communication and to attend the award ceremony. If events are planned specifically for and with them in the 12 months following the award (maximum two), they are expected to participate.

They may also be filmed and interviewed for non-commercial purposes related to the communication of the L'ORÉAL-UNESCO "For Women in Science" program.

These photos, videos and texts may be used for written and audiovisual publications and for distribution in Austrian and international media. Written permission for the image rights must be signed by each fellowship holder.

Reporting

A final report must be sent by e-mail to the Austrian Commission for UNESCO (walder-wintersteiner(at)unesco.at) and to the Scholarships & Prizes Department of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (barbara.haberl(at)oeaw.ac.at) no later than 3 months after the end of the fellowship period.

[As of December 2024]