

## Objective

The purpose of this fellowship program is to highlight the role of women in devising scientific solutions to problems confronting humankind in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The program supports major research projects undertaken by Canadian women scientists at the postdoctoral level in Canada.

More information about the For Women in Science program, at both the national and international levels, can be found here: <https://www.forwomeninscience.com>.

## Number, Value and Duration of Scholarships

Up to two (2) postdoctoral fellowships will be awarded. These fellowships are valued at \$20,000 CAD each, tenable for one year (September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026).

The fellowships cannot be deferred to future years.

## Eligibility

Applicants to the fellowship program must be:

- female Canadian citizens or permanent residents by the application deadline;
- planning to complete their doctoral degree by September 1, 2025, or have completed their degree within the last 5 years (i.e., applicants must have obtained their doctoral degree between September 1, 2020, and August 31, 2025. This window will be extended to the last six years if the applicant has taken a year off for parental or medical leave);
- planning to start or currently involved in research at the postdoctoral level at a recognized Canadian university/research institute;
- willing to participate in at least 2 events in support of women and girls in science (e.g., mentoring, classroom visits, media events, etc.) during their award tenure (September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026);
- available the week of November 24, 2025, to attend the “*For Women in Science Award Ceremony*” in Ottawa, Canada (travel expenses will be paid for by L’Oréal Canada);
- willing to submit a brief report summarizing their research findings at the end of their award tenure.

Please note:

- Applicants who have previously held a “*L’Oréal Canada For Women in Science Research Excellence Fellowship, with the support of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO*” are not eligible.
- Applicants who have previously held or currently hold a NSERC-L’Oréal Canada award are not eligible.
- Applicants who hold a MD may be eligible to apply. To be considered for a fellowship, applicants must be recognized as having postdoctoral status by their host institution and be undertaking full-time research.

## Field of Study/Program Requirements

For the 2025 competition, fellowships are being offered for research in the fields of Life Sciences and the Engineering/Pure and Applied Sciences. This includes, but is not limited to, the following subject areas:

### Life Sciences

- **Medical Sciences** – human genetics, immunology, neurosciences, pharmacology, toxicology, respiratory systems, cardiac and cardiovascular systems, oncology, haematology, endocrinology, dentistry and oral surgery, dermatology, gastroenterology, critical care and emergency medicine, anesthesiology, surgery, transplantation, radiology and medical imaging, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry.
- **Health biotechnology** – technologies involving the manipulation of cells, tissues, organs or the whole organism (assisted reproduction), technologies involving identifying the functioning of DNA/proteins, biomaterials, forensic science.
- **Health Sciences** – epidemiology, infectious diseases, public and environmental health, parasitology, nutrition/dietetics, occupational health, substance abuse.
- **Biological Sciences** – molecular biology, cell biology, stem cells, microbiology, reproductive biology, genetics and heredity, epigenetics, virology, enzymology, cryobiology, chronobiology.
- **Ecology** – agriculture, agronomy, botany/plant science, veterinary science, forestry, fishery, marine/freshwater biology, zoology, ornithology, entomology, mycology, evolutionary biology, palaeontology.

### Engineering/Pure and Applied Sciences

- **Engineering** – agricultural engineering, bioengineering, biomedical engineering, chemical engineering, electrical engineering, environmental engineering, material science, software engineering.
- **Mathematics** – pure mathematics, applied mathematics, statistics and probability.
- **Computer and Information Sciences** – theoretical computer science, computer systems, computer applications, bioinformatics.
- **Physics** – astronomy (including astrophysics, space science), experimental physics, nanomaterials, particle physics, plasma physics, quantum physics, nuclear physics.
- **Chemistry** – analytical chemistry, environmental chemistry, inorganic chemistry, materials chemistry, organic chemistry, physical chemistry.
- **Earth Sciences** – meteorology, climatology, geology, mineralogy, geophysics and geochemistry, oceanography, hydrology, soil science, contamination & waste management.

Note: If you are unsure whether your subject area is covered, please reach out by emailing [loreal@univcan.ca](mailto:loreal@univcan.ca).

## Conditions / Restrictions

- The research project must be carried out under the auspices of a research director or supervisor at a recognized Canadian university/research institute.
- Fellowship funds must be used within the year (i.e., September 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026).
- Fellowship funds must be used for salary.
- Fellowship recipients can hold other awards concurrently.

- Fellowship recipients must submit a reasonably detailed account of their research progress and/or findings by August 31, 2026. Reporting templates and guidelines will be made available to fellowship recipients.
- L'Oréal Canada retains the right to change and/or end the sponsorship of the fellowship plan without notice.

## Selection Process

The selection of fellowship recipients is made by a committee comprised of scientists from different disciplines. The Selection Committee reviews and ranks all eligible applications, then recommends award winners from the top applications.

### Evaluation criteria:

- Research ability and potential:
  - progressive research experience that demonstrates commitments to the scientific community and potential to make significant contributions to the candidate's field of research and/or country;
  - experience with international research and/or collaboration an asset.
- Research summary:
  - considers solutions to problems confronting humankind in the 21st century;
  - promises to contribute to knowledge in the candidate's field of research and has the potential to showcase Canadian contributions to science globally;
  - is written in clear, plain language.
- Research interest/plan of study:
  - describes the overall research plan, including goals and methodology;
  - describes the significance, novelty and potential impact of the research in Canada and internationally;
  - is feasible with regards to time and resource limits;
  - successfully demonstrates how the theoretical and practical knowledge or training that will be acquired at the host institution/organization will be beneficial to the candidate's on-going research project and career path.
- Community service:
  - Extra-curricular activities or volunteer experience that demonstrate a commitment to supporting girls and/or women in science.
- Quality and relevance of the letters of reference.

Applicants will be notified of the results of the selection process by email in July 2025. **All decisions made by the Selection Committee are final and irrevocable.**

## Award acceptance

Applicants who have been selected to receive a fellowship are required to acknowledge their acceptance of the terms and conditions/restrictions of the award by completing an online form. They are also required to forward any additional documentation needed to process payment of the award, such as proof of completion of doctoral studies, a social insurance number (SIN) and/or banking information. It is the responsibility of recipients to keep their contact information up to date through the online portal.



Fellowship recipients should be aware that L'Oréal Canada will, for the purposes of publicity and promotion, make public information such as, but not limited to, the recipients' names, photos, as well as their past and current career and research activities related to science (including place of employment and title). L'Oréal Canada will also shoot video footage of the recipients in their workplace.

Fellowship recipients will be asked to attend an official award ceremony in Ottawa in November 2025 (travel expenses for the award recipient and a guest will be paid for by L'Oréal Canada). **Fellowship recipients are asked to keep the results of the competition confidential until the award ceremony.**

## Payment

- Fellowship payment will be made by Universities Canada on behalf of L'Oréal Canada.
- Fellowship payment will only be made once the recipient has completed the online award acceptance process and Universities Canada has received all necessary documentation to process payment.
- Fellowship payment will consist of a one-time payment to the recipient by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) during the fall semester (September-December). **Please note that EFT payments can only be made to a Canadian bank account AND the bank account must be in the recipient's name.**
- Fellowship recipients will receive a T4A slip, for income tax purposes, from Universities Canada showing the amount of the award paid to them. The T4A slip will be accessible and downloadable from Universities Canada's Scholarship Partners Canada's online portal. Recipients will be responsible for reporting income from this fellowship program to the Canada Revenue Agency.

## How to apply

Applicants must prepare and submit their application through an online portal accessible at:  
<https://portal.scholarshippartners.ca>.

Applicants should be aware that they do not have to complete their application in one sitting; they can log into the online portal and add to or edit their application as many times as they like up to the point of submission. Applicants can also view the status of their application (e.g., draft, submitted, withdrawn, etc.) in the online portal.

Applicants will be required to complete one (1) application form and upload three (3) pieces of supporting documentation (see Supporting Documentation section below for details) to complete the application process. **All documents must be submitted before April 17, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. EST.** It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure that all documents are received by the appropriate deadlines. If any of the documents are not received on time or do not meet specified requirements, the application will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.

Applicants will be notified by email once they have successfully submitted their application.

## Supporting Documentation

In addition to completing an online application form, all applicants must submit the following supporting documentation:

### 1) Letters of Reference

Please provide two (2) letters of reference. The first letter must come from a professor who knows you and is familiar with your work. The second must come from your research director or supervisor at the university/research institute where you will be carrying out your postdoctoral fellowship. These two roles (past or current professor and research director or supervisor) cannot be filled by the same person.

All reference letters must be typed, dated, and signed with an original or secured electronic signature. The people writing the letters of reference should describe their relationship to you in the letter and include their contact information. A reference letter will only be accepted if dated within one (1) year of the application deadline.

Reference Letter guidelines and templates are available for download from the online portal.

### 2) Letter of Support

Please provide a Letter of Support from the institution/organization where you plan to undertake your research. This letter must indicate the date and duration of your fellowship and state the institution/organization's willingness to provide you with access to the research facilities required by your field of specialization. A letter of support will only be accepted if dated within one (1) year of the application deadline.

Letter of Support guidelines and template are available for download from the online portal.

## About Universities Canada / Scholarship Partners Canada

Universities Canada's Scholarship Partners Canada (SPC) division administers the fellowship program on behalf of L'Oréal Canada.

Universities Canada's mandate is to facilitate the development of public policy on higher education and to encourage cooperation among universities and governments, industry, communities, and institutions in other countries.

Universities Canada is associated with leading firms in nearly every sector of the economy through its provision of scholarship services and management of more than 140 different scholarships programs on behalf of corporations, government agencies and private foundations throughout North America. For additional information, please visit [www.univcan.ca](http://www.univcan.ca).



**L'Oréal Canada For Women in Science Research  
Excellence Fellowships, with the support of the  
Canadian Commission for UNESCO**

2025 Application Guidelines

## Contact Us

**Scholarship  
Partners Canada.  
Partenaires en bourses  
d'études Canada.**

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RE: L'Oréal Canada For Women in Science Research Excellence  
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Tel.: 1-844-567-1237 (toll free)  
Web: [univcan.ca](http://univcan.ca)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: If any of the application requirements listed above are not met, your application will be considered incomplete and will not be reviewed.**