

For Women
in Science



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Regulations 2025/2026

Dutch L'Oréal-Unesco Fellowship For Women in Science

L'Oréal Belgilux & Nederland, the Netherlands Commission for Unesco, the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS-KNAW), the Dutch Network of Women Professors (LNVH) and NEMO Science Museum collaborate to offer a national grant programme for women researchers.

Established in 2012, these grants are part of the international partnership between L'Oréal and Unesco entitled *For Women in Science* (FWiS), initiated in 1998 to enhance the opportunities of women working in science. As such, FWiS encompasses an international programme as well as national programmes in various countries.

1. Objectives

The Dutch L'Oréal-Unesco For Women in Science Fellowship grants (hereafter: grants) are designed to advance the academic careers of women researchers with 3 to 10 years of post-PhD academic experience (comparable to Veni/Vidi level) in the fields of Life Sciences and/or STEM disciplines. The ultimate goal of the grants is to help increase the number of women professors in the Netherlands.

These grants provide women researchers with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the interdisciplinary and international academic environment of [NIAS-KNAW](#) in Amsterdam. Freed from the distractions of routine administrative and teaching responsibilities, they can concentrate on expanding and deepening their research, as well as writing publications or grant proposals.

2. Description of the grants

Four grants of € 30,000 each are available every two years to support Fellowships at NIAS-KNAW in Amsterdam: two for women researchers in the Life Sciences, and two for women researchers in the STEM disciplines. These Fellowships, each lasting one semester,¹ are titled 'Dutch L'Oréal-Unesco

¹ A semester at NIAS-KNAW has a duration of five months. Only in exceptional cases can a reduction to three months be negotiated.

Fellowship For Women in Science'. Fellows are provided with an office, computer, research facilities, and, depending on the fellow's proximity to NIAS-KNAW, either accommodation or reimbursement of travel costs.

Part of the Fellowship grant covers the costs of teaching, administrative or clinical duties at fellows' institution of employment ('replacement funds'). Additionally, FWiS fellows are eligible to apply for funds to cover the extra expenses incurred for childcare during their Fellowship.

3. Conditions - who may apply

Applications are invited from women researchers with 3 to 10 years of post-PhD academic experience, equivalent to the Veni/Vidi level. Periods of maternity leave, part-time work, and family care allow for an extension of the upper limit of 10 post-PhD years by up to 18 months per child (or case).

Applicants are required to submit a project proposal addressing a current research topic in the Life Sciences or STEM disciplines. The Life Sciences are defined here as research aimed at enhancing scientific and engineering knowledge of the processes vital to living organisms. This includes the study of health and disease conditions in humans, examined in a comprehensive and integrated manner that may also include approaches from the humanities or social sciences, while maintaining a strong foundation in the natural sciences. STEM is defined as the exact sciences, including research in the fields of technology, engineering and maths.

The goal of the FWiS programme is to increase the proportion of women academics in the higher echelons of Dutch academia by enhancing the career prospects of women researchers. Therefore, only those with a permanent or temporary contract² at a Dutch university or research institute are eligible to apply. Zero-hour contracts or visiting researcher positions are not eligible.

The Call is open from **15 January 2025** to **28 February 2025**. Applications can be submitted for two Fellowships at NIAS-KNAW starting on 1 September 2025, and two Fellowships starting on 2 February 2026 (academic year 2025/2026).

Unsuccessful candidates may reapply once, by submitting a new project proposal to the Dutch L'Oréal-Unesco For Women in Science Grant Programme.

4. Submitting a proposal

The application portfolio should include the following documents:

- a completed application form
- a detailed project proposal form
- a CV, limited to three pages (including the list of publications)
- two letters of recommendation

For more information about the full application portfolio, please consult both the **application form** and the **project proposal form**.

The application portfolio (5 files in total) should be submitted by e-mail to Dr. Jon Verriet, science advisor to the Netherlands Commission for Unesco, jverriet@unesco.nl, no later than **28 February 2025**.

5. Evaluation and results

The Netherlands Commission for Unesco forwards application portfolios of candidates that meet the established conditions to the jury for evaluation. The [jury](#) is composed of an interdisciplinary group of eleven scientists. The chair is nominated by the Netherlands Commission for Unesco. Additionally, L'Oréal Belgilux & Nederland, the Dutch Network of Women Professors and NIAS-

² During the course of the Fellowship at NIAS-KNAW.

KNAW each nominate one member of the jury. The other seven members are nominated by the partners collectively.

The evaluation and selection of applications are based on the following criteria:

- the applicant's three most significant achievements relevant to the proposed project, as detailed in their CV
- the academic and societal relevance of the proposed project
- the feasibility of the proposed project, including the work plan
- the alignment of the proposed project with the NIAS-KNAW environment, and vice versa the potential benefits it may bring to NIAS-KNAW's interdisciplinary research community
- the potential impact of the Fellowship on the applicant's academic career trajectory

The jury will select two candidates from the Life Sciences and two candidates from the STEM disciplines. However, L'Oréal Belgilux & Nederland, the Netherlands Commission for Unesco, the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS-KNAW), the Dutch Network of Women Professors (LNVH) and NEMO Science Museum reserve the right to award fewer Dutch FWiS Fellowship grants if less than four suitable candidates are identified in the jury's report. If there are no suitable candidates from either the Life Sciences or the STEM disciplines, the jury will not propose additional candidates from the other research domain to fill the quota.

6. Timeline and Award Ceremony

All candidates will be notified of the jury's decision by 1 April 2025. The Fellowships will be awarded during the biennial For Women in Science ceremony held at NEMO Science Museum in Amsterdam, in the afternoon of 17 April. Laureates are expected to attend the ceremony to receive their Fellowship.

7. Terms and conditions

Applicants may indicate their preferred Fellowship semester on their application form, with the options being 1 September 2025 or 2 February 2026.

Upon completion of the Fellowship, fellows are required to submit a NIAS-KNAW Progress Report. Additionally, fellows may be asked to submit a brief public report or testimonial on their experience at NIAS-KNAW, which may be shared on the FWiS partners' websites and through their media channels.

In the lead-up to the award ceremony and throughout the Fellowship period, laureates are expected to serve as ambassadors, advocating for the position of women in science in the Netherlands. They may be invited to attend events or participate in interviews related to the FWiS programme. Laureates agree to engage in communication activities related to the Dutch L'Oréal-Unesco For Women in Science Programme and allow photographic and video material to be used in social and traditional media by the FWiS partners.

Laureates grant L'Oréal Belgilux & Nederland, the Netherlands Commission for Unesco, NIAS-KNAW, LNVH and NEMO Science Museum permission to use their photographs, videos, name, awards, and titles in international communications for the duration of the Dutch FWiS programme. This permission is limited to non-commercial purposes directly related to the For Women in Science Grants Programme.

APPENDIX

NIAS-KNAW Fellowship 2025

Dutch L'Oréal-Unesco Fellowships For Women in Science

The Dutch L'Oréal-Unesco For Women in Science Fellowships provides women researchers with a one-semester (5 months)³ residential stay, allowing them to conduct scientific work in an international and interdisciplinary setting.

NIAS-KNAW offers the following facilities:

- an office equipped with a PC, network and printer connection, telephone and Wi-Fi throughout the whole building
- office supplies and equipment
- large and small meeting rooms with audio-visual presentation facilities
- the NIAS-KNAW library service
- academic and social activities within an international and multidisciplinary community
- mandatory communal lunches on weekdays, coffee and tea facilities
- as well as the mandatory internal weekly seminars.

If a fellow's commuting time (train station to Amsterdam CS, one way) exceeds 1.5 hours, they are eligible for accommodation provided by NIAS-KNAW. For more information, please visit the NIAS-KNAW website: [Practical Matters](#).

Grants

The grant provides a maximum of € 30,000 to fund a Fellowship. The funds must be used within 12 months from the Fellowship's start date. The grant covers the following expenses:

- NIAS-KNAW facilities:** Use of the facilities as described above (fixed amount of € 2,100 per month; € 10,500 for five months).
- Travel expenses:** Reimbursement of travel costs, in case the fellow's one-way commute is 1.5 hours or less (max € 250 per month).
- Housing:** If applicable, fellows can be offered subsidised housing (studio apartment in the Fellows House or a family apartment in South Amsterdam). In this case, fellows will contribute € 750 per month (€ 3,750 for five months) from their grant budget for housing.
- Replacement funds:** Fellows may be eligible for replacement funds to cover teaching, administrative or clinical tasks (Dutch University Grant, offered to their employer). This is set at € 2,500 per month (€ 12,500 for five months).
- Childcare costs:** Contribution towards additional childcare costs incurred due to working at NIAS-KNAW instead of the fellow's regular place of work (reimbursement basis).
- Workshop or meeting:** Funding for a small workshop or meeting at NIAS-KNAW during or immediately following the Fellowship. The workshop should aim to develop new, preferably interdisciplinary, themes with high-quality scientific participants. Planning and budgeting should be done in consultation with NIAS-KNAW.⁴

³ Only in exceptional cases the duration of the Fellowship may be reduced.

⁴ For more information about NIAS-KNAW or the proposal or workshop topic, please contact Ms. Annette Mullink, Selection Officer Partnered Fellowships at NIAS-KNAW, 020-2246700, partners@nias.knaw.nl

Example of FWiS Fellowship budget (housing excluded)		
	per month	5 month total
NIAS-KNAW facilities	€ 2,100	€ 10,500
Dutch University Grant	€ 2,500	€ 12,500
Travel costs	€ 150	€ 750
Additional childcare costs	€ 500	€ 2,500
NIAS-KNAW workshop		€ 3,750
Total		€ 30,000

In exceptional cases the duration of a Fellowship can be reduced to three months. In such cases, the € 30,000 grant will be reduced proportionally to € 18,000. However, an agreed extra amount can in such cases be spent on an academic activity related to the Fellowship project. This can include a visit to a university or research institute outside the Netherlands or organising an international workshop.