



Information leaflet  
February, 2021

*The world needs science,  
Science needs women,  
Because women in science can change the world.*

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### L'ORÉAL BALTIC FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE PROGRAMME 2021

Since February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the application process for the prestigious programme for L'ORÉAL Baltic Women in Science in all three Baltic States is open.

For the 17<sup>th</sup> time in Latvia and 5<sup>th</sup> time in Estonia and Lithuania, seven outstanding young Baltic women scientists each will receive a EUR 6 000 prize for their contribution to science. In addition, one awardee per Baltic country will be nominated for the prestigious L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Rising Talents.

The L'ORÉAL Baltic For Women in Science Programme honours seven young talented women in the Baltic States. Three awards are given out in Latvia, two in Lithuania and two in Estonia.

- One prize in each country will be awarded to a women scientist **with PhD up to 40 years old;**
- Two prizes in Latvia, one in Lithuania and one in Estonia will be awarded to **PhD student – PhD candidate - up to 40 years;**
- **Eligible research disciplines:** life and environmental sciences (e.g. biology, biochemistry, health, agricultural sciences, etc.), material sciences, physical sciences, engineering (such as chemistry, physics, material, mechanical, medical engineering, etc.) mathematics, computer, information sciences. **Please contact in case of doubts for eligibility applying your research topic - [fwis@attach.lv](mailto:fwis@attach.lv);**
- **Applicants must be below the age of 40 on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Limit of years can be extended up to 18 months per child;**
- **For doctoral candidates the PhD defence must not take place before July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.**

Women-scientist who are eligible for the criteria are invited to apply for "Women in Science" programme from February 1<sup>st</sup> to **March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, filling in the application form in English on website [www.forwomeninscience.com](http://www.forwomeninscience.com).** To support the application process, applicants have at their disposal **application process support service line daily during working hours at email [fwis@attach.lv](mailto:fwis@attach.lv)**

Each of the Baltic countries has its own separate Programme Jury that will carefully assess applications from candidates from that country. **Jury determines by 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2021 the award recipients and one candidate from each country to send an application for the International Rising Talents Programme.**

## About the program

Since 2005 when the L'ORÉAL Baltic programme was launched in Latvia, 48 women-scientists from Latvia have received this recognition for their work in the science field. In addition, since 2017 the programme is present in the full Baltic region and 6 awardees from Lithuania and 6 from Estonia have been awarded for their work in science field.

The program was brought to Latvia by the L'Oréal Baltic For Women in Science Program Honourable Patroness, Professor, Dr. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga (President of Latvia 1999-2007). L'ORÉAL Baltic "For Women in Science" Program is implemented in cooperation with Academies of Sciences and UNESCO National Commissions in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

This is the only support program in the Baltic States dedicated to support women scientists. The program promotes the professional development of Baltic scientists, helping them achieve new goals and creating benefit for both science and society.

Last year seven scientists from the Baltic countries each received the € 6,000 prize.

In 2020 from Latvia three scientists were awarded:



Dr. Chem. Iveta Pugajeva, Leading scientist and Head of the Chromatography Group at the Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment BIOR for her project:

"Elaboration of new methodology using ultra high-resolution mass spectrometry for assessing public health via wastewater-based epidemiology",



M. Sc. Ing. Aiga Ivdre, PhD Student in chemical engineering at Riga Technical University, Researcher at Latvian State Institute of Wood Chemistry, Polymer Laboratory, for her project:

"From the wood industry by-products to nanocellulose in one step synthesis"



M. Sc. Chem. Ivita Bite, PhD student in materials physics at the University of Latvia, Researcher at the University of Latvia, Institute of Solid State Physics, Laboratory of Optical Materials, for her project:

"Influence of different chemical synthesis methods on the physical properties of oxides"

In Estonia 2 scientists were awarded:



Prof. Maarja Grossberg, Head of the Laboratory of Optoelectronic Materials Physics in the Department of Materials and Environmental Technology, Tallinn University of Technology for her project:

“Is partial cation substitution the magic key to boost the efficiency of next generation sustainable kesterite materials based photovoltaics?”



M. Sc. Lisandra Marina Da Rocha Meneses, PhD student and Junior Researcher at Estonian University of Life Sciences in the Institute of Technology, Laboratory of Biofuels for her project:

“Second-generation bioethanol production: strategies for side streams valorisation in a sustainable circular economy”.

In Lithuania 2 scientists from Vilnius University Life Sciences Center were awarded:



Dr Rima Budvytyte, a Senior Research Fellow in the Institute of Biochemistry at Vilnius University Life Sciences Center for her project:

“Interactions between misfolded proteins and phospholipid membranes: A possible key in neurodegeneration”



M. Sc. Dominyka Dapkute, PhD student in biophysics at Vilnius University, Life Sciences Center, Junior Researcher at Biomedical Physics Laboratory in National Cancer Institute for her project:

“Investigation of mesenchymal and cancer stem cell response to nanoparticle treatment: towards cell therapy”.

The global For Women In Science program was launched in 1998. Since then L'ORÉAL Foundation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO have been committed to women in science, to increase the number of women working in scientific research. That is why, for the past 22 years, the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science program has worked to honour and accompany women researchers at key moments in their careers, contributing significantly to the development of science and to gender equality in science.

Since the program began, it has supported more than 3,600 young women from 110 countries and celebrated more than 100 Laureates, at the peak of their careers, including professors Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Ada Yonath, Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard, Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna, who went on to win a Nobel Prize.

The L'Oréal-UNESCO International Rising Talent program is dedicated to both honouring distinguished women scientists as well as supporting promising young women researchers throughout their careers. The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Rising Talents are presented to fifteen promising young women, from each world region (Africa and the Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America), in order to support and encourage them to pursue their scientific careers. They are selected among the best National and Regional fellows.