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Regulations 2023

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) and the Dutch Network of Women Professors (LNVH) work together to offer a national programme of grants for women researchers.

These national grants, which have been offered since 2012, are part of the international partnership between L'Oréal and Unesco - 'For Women in Science' (FWiS) which was set up in 1998 to improve the position of women working in science. FWiS has two international programmes alongside national programmes in different countries.

1. Objectives

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

These grants offer women researchers the opportunity to work within the interdisciplinary, international academic environment of NIAS-KNAW in Amsterdam, away from the distractions of regular administrative and teaching tasks so that they can focus on broadening and deepening their research and writing publications or grant proposals.

2. Description of the grants

Two grants of € 30,000 each are available annually to fund the costs of two fellowships at NIAS-KNAW in Amsterdam.¹ The fellowships are for the duration of one semester.² The fellowships are called 'Dutch L'Oréal-Unesco Fellowship for Women in Science'. They include the provision of an office, computer, research facilities and, depending on the distance between NIAS-KNAW and a fellow's home, either accommodation or a daily travel allowance. The holder of the fellowship may be eligible to apply for replacement funds to cover the costs of teaching, administrative or clinical tasks. FWiS fellows are eligible to apply for funds to cover the additional expenses of childcare made during their fellowship.

3. Criteria - who may apply

Women researchers with 3 to 10 years of post-PhD academic experience (Veni/Vidi level) may apply. Maternity leave, part-time work and family care will be taken into account and, if applicable, the upper limit of 10 years can be extended by up to 18 months per child.

Applicants submit a proposal on a current research topic in the Life Sciences or in the STEM disciplines. The Life Sciences are defined as research focusing on scientific and engineering knowledge that contribute to the understanding of the underlying processes in the existence of living organisms. This includes the study of conditions of health and disease in humans. It implies a comprehensive and integrated approach which may also include the humanities and social sciences, while at the same time doing justice to a solid foundation in the natural sciences. Additionally, STEM is defined as the exact sciences, including research in the fields of technology, engineering and maths.

As the aim of this programme is to increase the number of women professors in the Netherlands by improving the career prospects of women researchers, only researchers with a permanent or temporary contract³ at a Dutch university or research institute are eligible to apply. Zero-hour contracts or visiting researcher positions do not apply.

The Call is open from 16 January 2023 to 1 March 2023. Applications can be submitted for fellowships at NIAS-KNAW starting early September 2023 or early February 2024 (academic year 2023/2024).

Candidates who are not successful may apply a second time (only) by submitting a new project proposal to the Dutch L'Oréal-Unesco For Women in Science Grant Programme.

4. Submitting a proposal

An application consists of the following:

- an application form
- a project proposal form
- a CV (maximum 3 pages including the list of publications)
- two letters of recommendation
- copies of the two publications most relevant to the proposal

For more information about the application criteria please consult the application form and the project proposal form.

The application can be submitted by e-mail to Dr Jon Verriet, science advisor to the Netherlands Commission for Unesco, jverriet@unesco.nl, no later than 1 March, 2023.

5. Evaluation and results

The Netherlands Commission for Unesco sends applications that meet the criteria set out above to the jury for evaluation. The jury consists of an interdisciplinary group of scientists (nine members). In 2023, the jury's chair is nominated by the Netherlands Commission for Unesco. L'Oréal Belgilux

¹ Compared to last year, all partners have agreed to increase the sum by the amount of 5000 euro, to correct for inflation and as a consequence of higher costs.

² A semester at NIAS-KNAW has a duration of five months. Exceptions can be made to reduce the duration to three months.

³ During the course of the fellowship at NIAS-KNAW.

& Nederland, the Dutch Network for Women Professors and NIAS-KNAW all nominate one member of the jury as well.

The evaluation and selection of applications is based on:

- The scientific achievements of the candidate
- The scientific quality of the research proposal
- The relevance of the L'Oréal-Unesco FWiS Fellowship for the applicant's scientific career
- The extent to which the application fits the interdisciplinary character of NIAS-KNAW⁴
- The budget proposal

The jury will select one candidate from the Life Sciences, and one candidate from the STEM disciplines. L'Oréal Belgilux & Nederland, the Netherlands Commission for Unesco, the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS-KNAW) and the Dutch Network of Women Professors (LNVH) reserve the right not to award a Dutch FWiS Fellowship Grant if there are no suitable candidates according to the jury report. If there is no suitable candidate for one of the two research fields, then the jury will not be able to suggest a second candidate for the other of the two fields.

6. Timeline and Award Ceremony

Candidates will be informed about the jury's decision before 1 April 2023. The fellowships will be awarded at the annual For Women in Science ceremony held at the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities in Haarlem on Tuesday 18 April 2023.

Laureates are expected to attend the ceremony in order to receive their fellowship and to present their research plans.

7. Terms and conditions

Candidates can indicate their preference for the fellowship period on their application form. The starting point for a fellowship at NIAS-KNAW is either early September 2023 or early February 2024.

At the end of the fellowship, a NIAS-KNAW Progress Report needs to be submitted. In addition, fellows can be asked to deliver a short public report or testimonial about their time at NIAS-KNAW that can be shared through the website and media of the FWiS partners.

In the run-up to the Award Ceremony and during the fellowship period, laureates are expected to act as ambassadors advocating the position of women in science in the Netherlands. Laureates may be asked to attend events or make themselves available for interviews in relation to the FWiS programme. Laureates agree to take part in communication activities related to the Dutch L'Oréal-Unesco For Women in Science Programme and allow photographic and film material to be used in social and regular media, by the FWiS partners as well as the laureates themselves.

Laureates give L'Oréal Belgilux & Nederland, the Netherlands Commission for Unesco, NIAS-KNAW and LNVH permission to use their photographs and/or videos, name, awards and titles in international communications for the duration of the Dutch FWiS programme. This permission is restricted to non-commercial goals that are directly related to the For Women in Science Grants Programme.

⁴ Please note that the fellowships are meant for candidates for whom the interdisciplinary research climate of NIAS-KNAW and the interaction with other fellows are particularly attractive, or in other words, in cases where the NIAS-KNAW environment provides particular added value to both candidate and project proposal.

APPENDIX

NIAS-KNAW Fellowship 2023

Dutch L'Oréal-Unesco Fellowships For Women in Science⁵

The Dutch L'Oréal-Unesco For Women in Science Fellowships offer women researchers a residential stay of one semester (5 months)⁶ during which they can perform scientific work in an international and interdisciplinary environment.

NIAS-KNAW offers the following facilities:

- An office with PC, network and printer connection, telephone and Wi-Fi in the whole building
- Office equipment and stationary
- Large and small meeting rooms with presentation facilities
- A library service
- Academic and social activities within an international and multidisciplinary community
- Communal workday lunches and coffee and tea facilities

In case the commuting time (single journey) of a fellow exceeds 1.5 hours, they are eligible to make use of accommodation provided by NIAS-KNAW. For more information please consult the NIAS-KNAW-website: <https://nias.knaw.nl/what-we-offer/practical-matters/>.

COVID disclaimer:

These facilities are offered under normal circumstances. Conditions may deviate during the Covid-19 pandemic. For an overview of what NIAS-KNAW can offer in different lockdown scenarios, see: <https://nias.knaw.nl/fellowships-in-times-of-covid-19/>.

Grants

The grant has a maximum amount of € 30,000 and funds the costs of a fellowship at NIAS-KNAW in Amsterdam for the duration of one semester (five months). The grant's funds may be used up to 12 months from the starting date of the fellowship. The grant covers the following costs:

- a. Use of the NIAS-KNAW facilities described above (€ 2,100 per month; € 10,500 at 5 months).
- b. Travel expenses (on a reimbursement basis, and fully covered if a fellow's single journey commute takes 1.5 hours or less).
- c. If necessary, fellows will be able to acquire subsidized housing: either a studio apartment in the Fellows House or subsidized rent for a family apartment. The fellow is asked to contribute € 750 p. m.; € 3,750 at 5 months out of their grant's budget for either of the housing arrangements.
- d. The fellow may be eligible for replacement funds to cover the costs of teaching, administrative or clinical tasks (Dutch University Grant). This amount is set at € 2,500 per month (€ 12,500 at 5 months). The university faculty must send NIAS-KNAW a statement of hours, and payment will be made to the faculty once NIAS-KNAW has approved the declared amount.
- e. Contribution to additional costs of childcare that occur as a result of working at NIAS-KNAW instead of the regular work place (on reimbursement basis).
- f. A small workshop or meeting at NIAS-KNAW during or directly following the fellowship period. The academic programme of the workshop should aim at developing new, preferably interdisciplinary themes, and participants should be of high scientific quality. Planning and budgeting to be drafted in consultation with NIAS-KNAW.

⁵ For more information about NIAS-KNAW or the proposal or workshop topic, please contact Ms. Dindy van Maanen, Partnership & Selection Officer at NIAS-KNAW, 020-2246706, selection@nias.knaw.nl.

⁶ Exceptions can be made to reduce the duration to 3 months.

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

Fellows who opt for the fellowship of a reduced duration (3 months) and who do not need the whole grant of € 30,000 to cover the costs mentioned above (a-f) can use any remaining funds for an academic activity related to the fellowship project, for example a visit to a university or research institute outside the Netherlands or the organization of an (international) workshop, e.g. at the Lorentz Center in Leiden, a national center for scientific workshops in all scientific disciplines (and a partner of NIAS-KNAW).