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The world needs science...Science needs women.

The international L'Oréal-UNESCO "For Women in Science" program was launched in Paris in 1998, with the aim of improving the position of women in science by recognizing outstanding women researchers and young women scientists engaged in promising projects. International bursaries are divided into two categories: L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards (monetary value of US \$100,000 each) and International Fellowships (monetary value of \$40,000 each).

To date, 61 L'Oréal-UNESCO Award Laureates have been recognized for their career achievements and 135 Fellows have been encouraged to pursue their scientific vocations in life sciences in an academic institution / laboratory abroad. Information for Canadian applicants to the international fellowships can be found at: <http://www.en.loreal.ca/en/ca/index.aspx>

In Canada, the L'Oréal UNESCO For Women in Science Mentor Fellowships (valued at \$5,000) were launched in 2003 to reward young scientists at the doctoral level and to encourage them to continue their studies. The fellows also participate in the Girls Mentorship Program where they share their experiences and their passion for science with young girls aged 9 to 14 through summer camps, workshops and clubs. Since the beginning of the program, over 250 mentors have been involved in mentoring sessions and almost 5000 girls across Canada have benefited from these experiences. <http://www.en.loreal.ca/en/ca/index.aspx>

In 2006, the success of the mentoring program led to the creation of the L'Oréal Canada For Women in Science Research Excellence Fellowships, with the support of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. The new fellowships (valued at \$20,000 each) support major research projects by women scientists at the post-doctoral level. The goal is to reward excellence and enable Canadian women scientists to pursue and expand their research projects. The Fellows are selected by a panel of judges with acknowledged expertise in their field and alternate each year between life sciences and engineering/pure and applied sciences. <http://www.en.loreal.ca/en/ca/index.aspx>

UNESCO and L'Oreal have also launched an online forum called AGORA to highlight and support women's contributions towards scientific progress, focusing on topics such as science education for girls and women, women of science and sustainable development, bioethics and diversity. <http://www.agora.forwomeninscience.com>