



## Application guidelines

### 2026 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early Career Women Scientists in the Developing World

#### 'Sustainable, Affordable, and Reliable Energy'

Applications for the 2026 awards are invited from women scientists who have made significant contributions in the area of **sustainable, affordable, and reliable energy**, whose research is linked to [SDG7 \(Affordable and clean energy\)](#), who have received PhDs within the last ten years and who have lived and worked for at least 5 years in an [eligible Scientifically and Technologically Lagging Countries \(STLCs\)](#).

The deadline for submission of applications is **31 August, 2025**.

Applications must be made [online](#), in English, and must include:

- Official documentation proving 5 years' residency in an eligible STLC.  
The following documents can be submitted as proof of residence as long as the name of the applicant (as written in the online form) appears clearly: statement from the local police office or municipality, population registry office, rental agreement, utility bills, employment contract. This list is not exhaustive and alternative documents can be considered. Please write to [owsd@owsd.net](mailto:owsd@owsd.net) if you are not sure about the eligibility of your documents.
- Evidence on how your research contributes to advancing the [SDG7 \(Affordable and clean energy\)](#).
- Motivational statement of no more than 2500 characters describing why you should be selected for this award, the excellent quality of your research, greatest achievements of your scientific career, impact of your work locally/regionally/internationally, and where relevant, any persona/professional challenges you have faced and overcome given your context (for ease, we recommend that you prepare this beforehand and copy-paste into the text box).
- PhD certificate
- Curriculum vitae
- Full list of publications
- At least 2 reference letters (reference letters must be prepared on official letterhead and should be written and signed by senior scientists familiar with your research).

If any of the supporting documents are not in English, you must attach an English translation. **Documents in other languages with no accompanying English translation will NOT be considered.**

You can see all details about the eligibility and evaluation criteria [here](#).

In order to help you prepare your application, please see a sample of the application form below.

# 2026 OWSD Elsevier Foundation Awards

## SAMPLE APPLICATION FORM

Please note this is a sample form and is not a valid application. All applications must be submitted online by creating an account via the TWAS Online Forms platform.

Please note all fields marked with an asterisk (\*) must be completed.

### Eligibility criteria statements

To be considered for the OWSD - Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early-Career Women Scientists, the candidates must meet all the [eligibility criteria](#) and apply using this online form.

I confirm that I am a woman/identify as a woman \*

☐ Yes


I declare that I have lived and worked for at least 5 of the last 15 years in one of the eligible science and technology lagging countries (see list [here](#)).

*Please note that if you are a citizen of an eligible country, but have not been able to live or work there due to active conflict, you may still exceptionally apply for the award. Please check yes anyway and explain when asked to describe periods of residency in next section. \**

☐ Yes

I confirm that my work is related to the area of 'Sustainable, affordable and reliable energy' (SDG7). \*

☐ Yes

I declare that I have received my PhD degree within the last ten years. \* 

☐ Yes

I confirm that I would be able to give a short presentation of my research in English (online or in person) to an international audience during the Awards Ceremony (venue and date to be confirmed). \*

☐ Yes

## Personal data

Family name \*



Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).

0 chars

Personal name(s) \*

Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).

0 chars

General field of specialization \*

Please provide a valid value.

Research area of specialization (use keywords) \*



Maximum characters: 300 (including spaces).

N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.

0 chars

Eligible country where you have lived and worked for at least 5 of the last 15 years \*

Please provide a valid value.

Please list or describe your periods of residency in the eligible country selected above that total to 5 years.

For example:

- 1) Resident in [country] from 2015–2025 without interruption
- 2) Resident from 2012–2015, then again from 2022–2025
- 3) Resident from 2012–2015, 2017–2019, and 2022–2023 \*

Maximum characters: 500 (including spaces).

N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.

0 chars

Upload any official documentation proving your residency for at least 5 years in the above mentioned country (e.g. certificate of residency, rental agreement, utilities bills, employment contract, etc.) \*



Choose a file, then click 'Upload'

File extensions allowed: pdf, doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, png.

Maximum file size: 10 MB.

Nationality \*

*Please provide a valid value.*

Date of birth \*

*Field can be filled in manually.*

*Please use the d/mm/YYYY format (E.g. 1/01/2016).*

Country of birth \*

*Please provide a valid value.*

Phone number \*

*Maximum characters: 50 (including spaces).*

0 chars



Email address \*

Name of your institution \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Current position at the above institution \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Country of institution \*

*Please provide a valid value.*

Postal address of institution \*

*Maximum characters: 300 (including spaces).*

*N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

0 chars

## Applicant's motivational statement

Referring closely to the eligibility criteria, please provide a summary of why you should be selected for this Award in Sustainable, affordable and reliable energy (SDG7). If relevant, please include any personal/professional challenges you have faced and overcome given your context - and highlight what you consider to be the greatest achievements of your scientific career. Give evidence, whenever possible, of the excellent quality of your scientific research and the impact of your work locally, regionally and/or internationally.

\*

*Maximum characters: 2500 (including spaces).*

*N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

0 chars

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## Education and awards

### PhD degree

Field/discipline \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Title \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Year of graduation \*

*Please provide a valid value.*

Awarding institution and country \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Please upload your PhD certificate or proof of PhD issued by the awarding institution. \*

Choose a file, then click 'Upload'

*File extensions allowed: pdf, jpg, jpeg, png.*

*Maximum file size: 10 MB.*

[Choose a file...](#)

Master's degree(s) or equivalent (if applicable)

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Field/discipline

*Maximum characters: 80 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Year of graduation

Please select one from the list.

Awarding institution and country

*Maximum characters: 80 (including spaces).*

0 chars

## Membership & recognitions

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Membership in academies and societies, if applicable (include dates and detail your position, if applicable)

*Maximum characters: 600 (including spaces).*

*N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

0 chars

Membership in other organizations (include dates and detail your position, if applicable)

*Maximum characters: 600 (including spaces).*

*N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

0 chars

Grants, awards and prizes received, if applicable (include dates)

*Maximum characters: 600 (including spaces).*

*N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

0 chars

## Employment

### Current professional appointment

From \*

*Field can be filled in manually.  
Please use the d/mm/YYYY format (E.g. 1/01/2016).*

Employing institution and country \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Position \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Upload your CV \*

Choose a file, then click 'Upload'

*File extensions allowed: pdf, doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, png.  
Maximum file size: 10 MB.*

Choose a file...

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## Publications

Publication you consider is the most important achievement of your research/career \*



*Maximum characters: 600 (including spaces).  
N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

0 chars

Describe why it is important

*Maximum characters: 600 (including spaces).  
N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

0 chars

Publication you consider is the 2nd most important achievement of your research/career \*



Maximum characters: 600 (including spaces).  
N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.

0 chars

Describe why it is important

Maximum characters: 600 (including spaces).  
N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.

0 chars

Publication you consider is the 3rd most important achievement of your research/career \*



Maximum characters: 600 (including spaces).  
N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.

0 chars

Describe why it is important

Maximum characters: 600 (including spaces).  
N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.

0 chars

H-Index \*



Value must be digits only.

Source of H-Index \*



Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).

0 chars

Upload a full list of your publications \*

Choose a file, then click 'Upload'

File extensions allowed: pdf, doc, docx, jpg, jpeg, png.  
Maximum file size: 10 MB.

Choose a file...

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## Research and scientific activities

Describe your current research and/or scientific activities \*

*Maximum characters: 1500 (including spaces).*

*N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

0 chars

### Collaborations

List up to three of your most significant collaborations, including in an academic setting or with industry.

#### Collaboration

Collaboration #1

Name of individual or organization \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Nationality or location \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Period of collaboration \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Why was this collaboration important to your career and what was achieved? \*

*Maximum characters: 1500 (including spaces).*

*N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

## Scientific/academic events

List up to three significant scientific/academic activities that you have organized or where you have participated as a speaker or chair (workshops, conferences or other academic events). Please note that you should not list here scientific/academic events you have simply attended.

### Scientific/academic event

Scientific/academic event #1

Title of the event \*

Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).

0 chars

Date \*

Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).

0 chars

Location \*

Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).

0 chars

Reason why this event is relevant to your career \*

Maximum characters: 1500 (including spaces).

N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.

0 chars

Type of involvement (organizer, speaker, chair, etc.) \*

Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).

0 chars

Brief description of your involvement (and impact, if relevant) \*

Maximum characters: 1500 (including spaces).

N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.

0 chars

## Capacity building & Outreach

### Academic capacity building

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Describe your experiences as a supervisor or mentor, detailing the numbers of students supervised/mentored and specific impacts. Include any evidence of developing and/or providing resources for students and young researchers. \*



*Maximum characters: 1500 (including spaces).  
N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

A large rectangular text input area with a light red border and a diagonal slash icon in the bottom right corner.

0 chars

### Outreach and civic contribution

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Describe any experiences you have had participating in civic society and engaging with local communities and populations. \*



*Maximum characters: 300 (including spaces).  
N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

A large rectangular text input area with a light red border and a diagonal slash icon in the bottom right corner.

0 chars

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## Reference Letters

Please submit **at least two** reference letters prepared by senior scientists familiar with your research.

Reference letters must be prepared on official letterhead and must be signed.

Provide the referees' details and reference letters below.

Referee

Referee #1

Referee's position \*



*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Referee's family name \*



*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Referee's personal name(s) \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Referee's email address \*

Name and postal address of referee's institution \*

*Maximum characters: 300 (including spaces).*

*N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

0 chars

Please state in what capacity the referee is acquainted with you. \*

*Maximum characters: 255 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Upload the reference letter signed by the above mentioned referee \*



Choose a file, then click 'Upload'

*File extensions allowed: pdf, jpg, jpeg, png.*

*Maximum file size: 10 MB.*

[Choose a file...](#)

Referee's position \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Referee's family name \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Referee's personal name(s) \*

*Maximum characters: 120 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Referee's email address \*

Name and postal address of referee's institution \*

*Maximum characters: 300 (including spaces).**N.B. Line breaks count as 1 character.*

0 chars

Please state in what capacity the referee is acquainted with you. \*

*Maximum characters: 255 (including spaces).*

0 chars

Upload the reference letter signed by the above mentioned referee \*



Choose a file, then click 'Upload'

*File extensions allowed: pdf, jpg, jpeg, png.**Maximum file size: 10 MB.*

## Final declarations

I agree to the processing of personal data as described in the [privacy notice](#) \*

☐ I agree

How did you find out about this programme? \*

☐ Elsevier Foundation Website

☐ OWSD Website

☐ Article on Elsevier Connect

☐ Other article or blogpost

☐ TWAS+

☐ TWAS website

☐ Social media

☐ Email announcement/circular

☐ Word of mouth from colleagues

☐ Google or other internet search

☐ At a conference or event

☐ Other (please specify below)