

PhD Fellowships for Women Scientists from Science and Technology Lagging Countries

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION and COVID-19 situation

OWSD understands that the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting university operations globally and will try to be as flexible as possible when reviewing applications this year. However, all application requirements remain valid as in previous years and applicants are expected to demonstrate that they meet the selection criteria.

Any documents that have to be produced by university officials but cannot be obtained within the application deadline (such as Preliminary Acceptance Letter, Letter of Commitment, No Objections Certificate) can be substituted with a self-certification form (The template can be downloaded in [PDF](#) or [Word](#) format) explaining the reasons for the lack of the formal document.

The self-certification can be done only if the university has accepted the applicant in principle (or agreed to approve the visits in case of the sandwich fellowship scheme), but cannot produce the document in time. In this case, applicants are asked to submit proof that they have tried to obtain the official documents (for ex. confirmation of university closure, email exchanges with university offices). If nominated for the OWSD PhD fellowship, the award will be confirmed only after the official documents have been presented to OWSD upon request.

Please note that the official Preliminary Acceptance Letter is not the same as a reference letter. You are still expected to submit reference letters (and the selection committee pay close attention to referees' recommendations). Reference letters sent to applicants via email can be saved as files, including the sender's email address and date of sending and attached as documents to the online application. Electronic signatures whenever possible should be included in the referees' letter.

Any documents that the applicant should already have in their possession such as degree transcripts, certificates, passport copy, photo, CV, language certificates, publications list and proposal outline must be submitted as usual.