



Ambasciata d'Italia
La Valletta

“Science, She Says!”

Purpose

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) is willing to establish the “*Science, She Says! Award*” to recognize an outstanding junior female scientist who has remarkably contributed to the advancement of science and technology, while performing her research in one of the following regions:

- Africa and the Middle East
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe
- Central and South America and the Caribbean
- North America

One candidate will be selected for each of the five regions, the determining factor being the place of work in the last 2 years. Italian researchers are not eligible for this prize.

The fourth edition of the Award will take place in autumn 2026, with an award ceremony organized by the relevant Italian Diplomatic Mission for the selected recipient. The award will consist of an engraved medal and a diploma to be presented at the award ceremony.

Eligibility

- The “*Science She, Says! Award*” is assigned to an outstanding female scientist for her contribution to the advancement of bilateral scientific cooperation in any field of science and technology, through their activity in one of the regions mentioned above (specify Region):
- The nominee should be resident in the country where she is nominated for the award, at least since January 1st 2024.
- The nomination should be submitted by an eminent scientist who is holding a leading position in a Scientific Academy, University, Research Institute or S&T Department of the Government of the **country** in which the nominee is working. Self-nominations are not eligible, nor are nominations from immediate family members. Teams are not eligible for the nomination. Qualified nominators may be:

➤ Heads of University or Scientific Institutions,

- Members of Academies of Science,
- Holders of Research Chairs,
- Full professors,
- The nominee should be an established scientist with an excellent academic and/or scientific career and a recognized track record of research achievements. She should have joint publications in high impact journals and/or should have developed technologies supported by international patents, Research activities within multilateral organizations hosted in one of the regions mentioned above (Europe) will be considered as well.
- Age limit: up to 40 years old at the time of 15 September 2026.

Evaluation Criteria and Mode of Selection

Nominees will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- The scientific impact of the nominee's work and research;
- Relevance of the nominee's work to Italy's bilateral S&T cooperation with one the regions mentioned above (Europe);
- Promotion of young researchers' mobility (incoming/outgoing) to foster the creation of bilateral research teams;
- Nominee's contribution to creative/innovative collaboration models;
- Nominee's capacity to create/improve contacts with the Italian research community and potential long-term collaborations.

The Award Committee, chaired by the Head of Office XI of the Directorate General for Growth and Export Promotion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, will be composed by the Presidents and/or Representatives of the major Italian Research and Academic Institutions.

Award Ceremonies will be organized by the relevant Italian Diplomatic Missions for each selected recipient.

How to Apply

The Call for Nominations will be published on the websites of the Italian Embassy in Malta <https://amblavalletta.esteri.it/it/>

Any scientist and institution willing to present a nomination may submit the format herewith enclosed, duly completed, to the following email address: segreteria.lavalletta@esteri.it

Nomination Form

Nominee

Name:

Date of Birth:

Institution:

Present Position:

Postal address:

Email address:

Nominator

Name:

Institution:

Present Position:

Postal address:

Email address:

Please send the form to the Italian Embassy by the September 18, 2026, together with the following attachments in .pdf file:

1. Short motivation for awarding this prize (maximum 100 words) signed by the “nominator”.
2. Nominee’s major scientific achievements (maximum 1 page).
3. Nominee’s short CV (maximum 2 pages) according to the applicable law in data protection.
4. List of nominee’s most important publications (maximum 1 page).
5. Nominee’s activities with the Italian scientific community (maximum 1 page)
6. Optional letters of support for the nomination (maximum 2 letters of maximum 1 page each)

The letters of support shall be provided by eminent scientists other than the nominator.

All information provided will be treated according to the Italian Law (Legge 196/2003 and Regolamento UE 2016/679)

Attached 1_TO BE SIGNED BY EACH APPLICANTS

Information on the protection of individuals with reference to the processing of personal data (General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679, art. 13)

The processing of personal data required for the purpose of participating in the “Science, She Says award” will conform to the principles of lawfulness, correctness and transparency in order to protect the fundamental rights and freedom of individuals.

To this purpose, the following information is provided:

1. The Data Controller is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) of the Italian Republic which, in this specific case, operates via Office IX DGCE – (dgce11@esteri.it; tel. 0039 0636914071; + contatti SEDE).

2. For inquiries or complaints, interested parties are entitled to address the MAECI data protection officer / DPO [responsabile protezione dati / RPD] (mailing address: Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione internazionale, Piazzale della Farnesina 1, 00135 ROMA, telephone: 0039 06 36911 (switchboard), email: rpd@esteri.it, certified email [pec]: rpd@cert.esteri.it).

3. The personal data requested are needed to participate in the selection procedure of the present the call. The processing of recipients’ personal data is meant exclusively for the purposes of the selection procedure for the award of the prize “Science She Says”.

4. The legal bases applicable are: the “Science She Says award” selection procedure; the Italian legislation on administrative transparency; the applicant’s consent; the EU Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679). The applications will be dismissed in the following cases:

- No data are provided, or
- the applicant’s consent is withdrawn

5. Data processing, performed by especially appointed personnel, will be carried out by manual and automated modalities exclusively for the purposes of the present selection procedure.

6. Personal data provided will be exclusively processed by persons responsible for the selection procedure, whose interest is legitimate according to Italian law, or to whom such data is owed by legal requirements. The recipient’s CV and name will be released to the press.

7. Personal data of the prize recipients shall be retained indefinitely for documentation. The remaining applicants’ personal data shall be retained for a maximum of 10 years after the award ceremony.

8. Applicants may request access to their personal data as well as their correction. Within the limits established by current legislation and without prejudice to any consequences on the outcome of the selection procedure, applicants may also request the cancellation of such data, as well as limitations of – or opposition to - data processing. In such cases, applicants must submit a specific request to the MAECI data protection officer (see art. 1).

9. If you believe your rights have been violated, a complaint may be addressed to the MAECI DPO (see art. 2.). Alternatively, you may contact the Italian Data Supervisory Authority [Garante per la Protezione dei Dati

personali] (mailing address: Piazza Venezia, 11 00187 ROMA, telephone: 0039 06 696771 (switchboard),
email: protocollo@gpdp.it, certified email: protocollo@pec.gpdp.it)

Date and Place

Signature