



Ambasciata d'Italia a Colombo

“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 (Asia and the Pacific) 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 (Asia and the Pacific);
- 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 website of the Embassy of Italy in Colombo available at the following link [News – Ambasciata d'Italia Colombo](#).

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