



IANAS-OWSD RESEARCH PRIZE for a Female PhD Student in the Sciences

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS BY IANAS ACADEMIES

Date November 3, 2011

Introduction

The IANAS Women for Science Working Group has received support from IAP, the Global Network of Academies of Sciences, for a research prize for an outstanding advanced female PhD student. The prize is co-sponsored with OWSD, the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World. The goal of the prize is to strengthen and diversify the scientific and technology research capacity of IANAS-affiliated countries by exchange visits of female PhD students. The IANAS-OWSD research prize will allow an outstanding advanced female PhD student in science, engineering, or mathematics to enrich her graduate research by working at an institute of her choice in any other country affiliated with IANAS.

Prize

The winning nominee will receive a travel and research grant of US \$9,000.- The prize winner will be honored at an IANAS ceremony where she will give an invited presentation of her proposed research project.

Terms of the IANAS – OWSD Research Prize

Money will be allocated to a special bank account under the name of the awardee. The awardee's home institute will allow her to take leave for the period of her research visit to the host institute, while retaining her student rights and stipend. The host institution will make available the necessary research facilities, will help the awardee apply for a visa, and find housing, childcare, and schools as needed.

Call for nominations by qualifying academies

WfS-WG invites the Science Academies of the countries listed below to each nominate **ONE** candidate from their respective countries

| | | |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Bolivia | Cuba | Nicaragua |
| Caribbean | Dominican Republic | Panama |
| Colombia | Guatemala | Peru |
| Costa Rica | Honduras | Venezuela |

The participating Academies may each develop their own method of selecting the most promising candidate. They need to explain their method of selection when submitting their nomination and the candidate's application package to the IANAS Office. It is recommended that academies appoint a committee to select the candidate, and that the committee focuses from the very beginning on only a few candidates who are already recognized as outstanding.

Dates and Deadlines

Nomination period opens: November 5, 2011

Academy reports to the IANAS Office its intent to submit a nomination: November 15, 2011

Academy reports to the IANAS Office having selected a candidate: December 12, 2011

Application packet submitted to IANAS Office: January 31, 2012

Eligibility Criteria

1. The candidate is in an advanced stage of research towards a PhD degree in physical sciences, life sciences, mathematics, or engineering in one of the IANAS countries listed above.
2. The candidate will spend some months at a research institute of her choice in another IANAS country, participate in research and learn new skills. The visit should help her complete her PhD on time while enhancing her capability to conduct scientific research.
3. The research visit will begin after February 2012 and end before June 2013.
4. The candidate will submit a plan for the visit that demonstrates clear goals and outcomes, including evidence that the visit will enhance the PhD research of the candidate on her return to her home institute.
5. Confirmation of support from the host institute.
6. Confirmation of support from the university or institute where the candidate is enrolled in a PhD program.

Application Process

Each qualifying Academy should submit

1. The complete set of application documents;
2. A statement about the selection process used, signed by the Selection Committee.

A complete application, written in English only, consists of:

1. Application page completed by the student;
2. Student's CV, limited to 3 pages, including name and address of the institution where she performs her graduate research, name of research adviser, PhD research topic, relevant work experience, publications, presentations at conferences, etc.
3. Student's statement of Interest/Proposed Research, limited to two pages. The student should address the following in her statement:
 - a. Research plan;
 - b. Intended outcomes in terms of her PhD research and professional development;
 - c. A description of why she chose the particular host institute and how she or her home institute intends to continue the relationship with that institute after her return;
 - d. A tentative budget for travel, lab equipment, housing, subsistence, and child care;
4. A letter from the host institute, limited to two pages, that confirms the intention for collaboration, and specifies the type and level of support and/or resources that will be provided to the student to successfully carry out her planned research;
5. A letter of support from the home institute, limited to two pages, that includes a statement about the likelihood that the student's visit may lead to long-term collaboration between the two institutes.

Applications should be sent via email to: ianas2011@hotmail.com by the deadline of January 31, 2012.

The Selection Process

Shortly after the deadline for submission, the applications submitted by the Academies will be reviewed by an independent committee of experts. The IANAS office will communicate the committee's selection of the awardee to the Academy that nominated her, and will notify her a few days later.

Post-Visit Reporting

As an IANAS awardee, the graduate student will be required to submit a report to the IANAS office within a month after the completion of her visit. The host institute will be asked to complete an evaluation of the research performed and of the program in general within a month after completion of the visit.