

The Schlumberger Foundation announces its 2020-2021 Faculty for the Future fellowship awards for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)

The Schlumberger Foundation has awarded Faculty for the Future fellowships to a new cohort of women in STEM. These women, from developing countries and emerging economies where they are underrepresented in STEM, are pursuing post-graduate studies in various STEM disciplines in leading research institutes around the world. This year, 19 new fellowships have been awarded and 77 were renewed demonstrating the dedication of the Foundation to continue supporting its current grantees and their research projects, while adding a new cohort of talented women to its community.

The top three disciplines of this year's cohort are in climate and environmental sciences, engineering, and computer sciences. The Fellows are mainly working on topics related to resolving issues faced by their communities in their home countries and regions. "This year we received an increased number of new, high quality applications. In addition, we continue to remain committed to renewing grantees whose progress and return plans are in line with the Foundation goals, while adding a reasonable number of new, academically strong candidates, who have the qualities needed to be powerful role models upon their return to universities currently under-represented by our existing community," notes Roseline Chapel, President, Schlumberger Foundation.

These fellowship awards demonstrate the Schlumberger Foundation's long-term investment in a community of highly qualified and recognized role models who are contributing to narrowing the gender gap in STEM disciplines by inspiring more women to study science. Fellowships are awarded based on the applicant's academic ability, leadership qualities and engagement in STEM outreach activities in under-served communities in their home countries. Fellowship recipients have all achieved academic excellence throughout their studies and often in the face of considerable challenges.

About the Schlumberger Foundation

The Schlumberger Foundation is a nonprofit organization that supports science and technology education. Recognizing the link between science, technology, and socio-economic development, as well as the key role of education in realizing individual potential, the Schlumberger Foundation flagship program is Faculty for the Future.

About Faculty for the Future

The program's long-term goal is to accelerate gender equality in STEM by generating conditions that result in more women pursuing scientific careers through alleviating some of the barriers they encounter when enrolling in STEM disciplines. The program is committed to gender parity in science in the interests of sustainable development and recognizes that full access to and participation in a STEM curriculum is essential for the empowerment of women and girls. By accelerating gender equality in STEM, the talent and capacities of these women can be developed for the benefit of their local communities, regions and nations.

The program awards fellowships for advanced research in STEM at leading research institutes abroad. Faculty for the Future Fellows are expected to return to their home countries upon completion of their studies to contribute to the economic, social and technological advancement of their home regions by strengthening the STEM teaching and research faculties of their home institutions as well as through their leadership in science-based entrepreneurship. They are also expected to contribute to the public sector where their newly acquired technical and scientific skills can help provide evidence-based support for STEM policy making, including topics of gender representation.

This program acts as a catalyst for these women to further tap into their potential. Through heightened motivation, sharpened self-awareness and a lasting passion for science they in turn capture the imagination of other women and girls around them to regard scientific pursuits as a necessary means towards advancement and growth.

Since its launch in 2004, 739 women from 82 countries have received Faculty for the Future fellowships for PhD and Post-Doctorate STEM research programs. Through interactive online tools and in-person meetings, the program provides a platform for these women to take joint action in identifying and unravelling the impediments that are holding back equal opportunities in STEM education and careers in their local communities and home countries.