2027

ZONTA WOMEN IN STEM AWARD

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

DESCRIPTION

The Zonta Women in STEM Award uplifts innovation and celebrates the remarkable accomplishments of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields of study. The award recognizes eligible women from their second year of undergraduate study through their final year of graduate study for groundbreaking research, pioneering discoveries and/or exemplary contributions to advancing knowledge and innovation in STEM.

By recognizing and supporting these exceptional women, Zonta aims to inspire future generations, encourage women to pursue leadership in STEM and foster greater inclusivity and diversity in STEM fields.







The program operates at the Zonta club, district and international levels. Zonta International offers 16 international awards of US$5,000 each and a complimentary one-year supporting membership in Zonta International for the next financial year.

Timetable

Each Zonta club determines their own timeline for receipt of applications
Club recipient is selected and application is sent to governor..... **1 February 2027 or deadline determined by the district**
District applicant selected and application received by Zonta International Headquarters..... **1 March 2027**
Official announcement of international recipients..... **April 2027**

General Information

According to the Global Gender Gap Report (2023), women comprise only 29.2% of the STEM workforce in 146 nations evaluated. Despite a 1.58% increase in female STEM workers between 2015 and 2023, a troubling gender imbalance remains. Women face challenges when pursuing STEM leadership roles. For instance, women represent 29.9% of senior workers but only 12.4% in C-suite roles. Organizations, governments, educational institutions, and the larger scientific and technological community must work together to remove barriers that prevent women from advancing in STEM careers. *Cited by Global STEM Workforce - Society of Women Engineers (swe.org)*

The goal of the Zonta Women in STEM Award is to uplift and recognize the incredible work being done by women in STEM fields and inspire other women to pursue education, careers and leadership roles in STEM fields.

Who is Eligible?

Women who demonstrate groundbreaking research, pioneering discoveries, and/or exemplary contributions to advancing knowledge and innovation in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) field of study are eligible to apply. Applicants are eligible if they are currently in their second year of an undergraduate program through the final year of a graduate program. The Designated Degree Program List provides a comprehensive reference of STEM fields and is used to support consistent eligibility determinations for applicants worldwide: Full list of STEM fields recognized internationally.

Previous Zonta Women in STEM Awardees are **not eligible** to apply to renew the Award for a second year. Club members and individuals with direct membership with Zonta International and employees of Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women are **not eligible** to apply for the awards.

Z club and Golden Z club members **are eligible** to apply. Recipients of a Zonta fellowship or award who have received a complimentary one-year supporting membership from Zonta International **are eligible** to apply during their complimentary membership year, provided that they are not applying for the same fellowship or scholarship they previously received from Zonta International.

Committee or jury members or any member involved in the selection process should follow the Zonta International Conflict of Interest Policy in the selection of awardees.

How Do I Apply?

Applicants must locate a Zonta club near them by using the Club Locator at zonta.org/locateaclub to receive the deadline and an address to submit application to, or for assistance, email your name and contact information to Zonta International Headquarters at programs@zonta.org. Note that applications must be submitted to a Zonta club or district in the language(s) accepted by the club or district by the deadline printed on the application. Only typed applications will be accepted and considered.

Note that applicants from geographic areas within a Zonta district where no clubs are located may apply via a Zonta e-Club or directly to the district to be eligible for the international awards.

Application Requirements

- ❑ Completion of the official application, including essay, which could be downloaded from the Zonta International website (www.zonta.org).
- ❑ Verification of current enrollment by school/institute official (if applicable), **or**
- ❑ Letter from employer verifying employment (if applicable). The letter from employer must be on letterhead with signature from the employer stating the applicant's date of hire and job title.
- ❑ Two recommendations from adults, not related to the applicant, such as teachers, school officials, or employee supervisors, which must be sent directly to the Zonta club **or** district and not through the applicant.

Supporting documentation not requested as part of the application **will not** be considered. All applications and supporting information become the property of Zonta International. Zonta International has final authority over any aspect of the Awards.

Application Process

The application process must start with a Zonta club. All application materials must be received at a Zonta club by the deadline given by the individual club. If you downloaded the application from the Zonta International website, you must contact a Zonta club for deadline information. Zonta International Headquarters does not hold a list of all clubs' deadlines. The club evaluating committee will consider applications and select the club awardee. Zonta clubs each select one application to send to their respective Zonta governor.

A district evaluating committee reviews the applications and selects one applicant per district to submit to Zonta International Headquarters. Districts with at least 1,200 members as of 31 May 2026 may submit two applications. The International Zonta Women in STEM Award Jury will select 16 international Zonta Women in STEM Award recipients from the district applicants received at Zonta International Headquarters.

How May I Use the Award Funds?

1. There are no restrictions on the use of funds.
2. Please note: Zonta International is offering a "scholarship" type of payment to be used for tuition and/or living expenses, if the recipient is choosing to use their funding for this. Please see below under Tax Considerations.
3. Recipients are not permitted to defer the Zonta Women in STEM Award.
4. Recipients may accept additional grants and awards from other sources.

Tax considerations

Recipients of the award will need to define the type of payment that suits their purposes best with the following considerations:

- "Award": with no restrictions for use. As an award, it is taxable income under U.S. tax regulations. To comply with the law, all awardees will receive tax forms. Also, according to U.S. tax regulations, **30% of the award** must be withheld from awards made to non-U.S. residents. If Zonta International is notified that there is a U.S. tax treaty with the resident's country, the withholding will be appropriately adjusted.
- "Scholarship": to be used for tuition, fees and materials (books, supplies and equipment) required for courses at a secondary school, college or university only. As a scholarship to be used for tuition, fees and materials, the income is tax free.
- "Scholarship": to be used for living expenses while attending a secondary school, college or university. Although tuition and related expenses are tax free, income used for living expenses is considered taxable income. Tax forms will be provided to all awardees, as required. Withholdings range from $ 0 (tax treaty), 14% (appropriate student VISA) to 30% for non-U.S. residents.
- Supplemental awards and scholarships that are paid directly paid by a club or district will follow the tax regulations of their taxing authority.

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APPLICATION FORM

SEND APPLICATION AND DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO:

Application Deadline: (Deadline set by club applicant is applying to.) **Contact local Zonta club for deadline.**

Zonta Club/e-Club of: Zonta Club of Dallas Deadline: November 1, 2026

District/Area: District 10/Area 2

To find a club click: Club Locator

Attention: Joan Hart

Address: applications and

City/State: other required documents

Province/Country: ONLY be accepted via email

Telephone: 214-535-7499

Email address: ZontaDallaswomeninSTEM@gmail.com

Name: _____
Last (Family) First Middle

Current mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

LinkedIn address: _____

Permanent mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Secondary email address: _____ Telephone: _____

Birth date: _____ Birthplace: _____ Country of citizenship: _____
(date/month/year) (city and country)

Name of college/university/institute currently attending (if applicable): _____

Current year of study (if applicable): _____ Expected graduation date (if applicable provide month/year): _____

Department/field of study (if applicable): _____

Degree sought (if applicable): _____

Name and Address of Employer (if applicable): _____

Education/Academic background:

Applicants are required to send transcripts of grades or equivalent records from all universities, colleges or institutes attended. An explanation of the grading system must be included for each transcript. Please add your degree obtained or current degree sought, if applicable, and expected graduation date (month/year). Do not upload unofficial transcripts as they will not be accepted.

In the tables below, please list the institutions you have attended:

University/college/institute/online	Degree Received/Sought with Major Field(s)	Dates Attended	Date Degree Received/ Anticipated (Month/Year)

Employment history in STEM field (if applicable):

(If you started your own company, please include that information here.)

From (month/year)	To (month/year)	Name of Employer	Location	Type of work or position held

Scholarships, fellowships, honors received:

Awarding Body	Award/Scholarship/Honor	Basis for Award (e.g. academic merit, leadership, service, etc)	Date From - To

Volunteer and/or other activities

In 200-300 words or less, please describe any volunteer, non-scholastic activities, memberships and cultural interests.

Professional information and goals

In 500 words or less, please describe your significant achievements, research, discoveries, innovations and/or contributions to advancing knowledge or practice in a STEM field, whether in an academic or professional setting.

Please highlight the impact and significance of your work. This may include achievements or contributions that have advanced your field, benefited your workplace, organization or community, addressed a societal challenge, contributed to scientific or technological innovation, or supported your own professional or academic advancement. Applicants should provide specific examples of accomplishments, outcomes or other evidence that demonstrate the success and potential impact of their work.

Please also explain how you would use the Zonta Women in STEM Award to further your goals and advance your work. Describe the specific opportunities, activities, education, research, equipment, professional development or other needs the award would support and, where applicable, how this investment could benefit your field, organization, community or others beyond yourself.

(Essays cannot exceed 500 words to be considered.) Please provide the word count at the end of your response.

Recommendations

Please use the following fields to name and send a recommendation letter request to a faculty member in the major field of study (if applicable) and/or to a supervisor, employer, volunteer supervisor, or academic advisor. These recommendations are confidential, and you will not be able to view the completed responses. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure these recommendations have been turned in by the Zonta club's deadline.

Please list below those referees who will submit recommendations:

Name	Position	Title	College/university/institute/ employer
1.			
2.			

Declaration by Applicant

I certify that all the information contained in my application form is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I did not receive assistance in completing the essay portions of this application other than for translation into English for advancing to district and international levels. I understand that, at the option of the Zonta club sponsoring my application or the Zonta district or Zonta International, I may be interviewed as a candidate for the Zonta Women in STEM Award. I consent to the electronic or hard copy publication of material in my application by Zonta International.

- ☐ I confirm that I have not applied to more than one Zonta district.
- ☐ I confirm that I am not a club member or individual with direct membership with Zonta International or employee of Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women (excluding recipients of a Zonta fellowship or award who are currently within their complimentary one-year supporting membership from Zonta International).
- ☐ I confirm that I am not a previous international fellowship or scholarship recipient.

Signature (required) _____ **Date** _____

(Insert image of your signature or print, sign and scan this page.)

Data Protection

Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women take the security of your data seriously. We will never sell, trade or rent your personal information provided in this application to third parties. By submitting this application, you agree to the use of your data in accordance with the *Privacy Policy and Publicity Authorization Form* contained in the application documents (see page 8 of the application).

FINAL Checklists

Checklist to be completed by applicant:

Official detailed transcripts (if applicable)	☐
Translated transcripts in English from all universities/colleges/institutions attended (if applicable)	☐
Recommendations (2)	☐
Essay (not exceeding 500 words)	☐
Verification of Current Enrollment Form (if applicable)	☐
Letter from employer verifying employment (if applicable)	☐
Signatures	☐

How did you learn of the Zonta Women in STEM Award?

Social media: ▪ LinkedIn ▪ Facebook ▪ Instagram	☐ ☐ ☐
Department/teacher	☐
Directory of grants at university financial aid office	☐
Directory of grants not at university (e.g., public libraries)	☐
Website (name):	☐
Previous recipient (name):	☐
Zonta club name:	☐

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

Recommendation for the Zonta Women in STEM Award

Please return this form by: _____

_____
Applicant's signature is required (Insert image of your signature or print, sign and scan this page.)

Applicant: _____
Last (Family) Name **First** **Middle**

Recommendation from: _____ _____
Name **Position/Title**

_____
College/university/institute/employer

The applicant above has applied for a Zonta Women in STEM Award. Zonta International greatly values and appreciates your opinion. Please discuss the applicant's accomplishments; current academic program and/or work experience; intellectual independence; capacity for analytical thinking; ability to organize and express ideas clearly; creativity; motivation; and potential for advancing knowledge and innovation in a STEM field. You may write your recommendation letter on letterhead of your choice, but you must sign and submit the letter with this form.

How well do you know the applicant? _____

Please rate the applicant with respect to your experience with other students/employees in this field/position:

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Exceptional Top 5%	Very Good Next 10%	Good Next 15 %	Average Next 30%	Below Average Last 40%	Below Average Last 40%

_____ _____
Referee's signature is required (Insert image of your signature or print, sign and scan this page.) Date

Return form to Zonta Club of:		**Mailing Address:**	
City:		**State/Province:**	
Postal Code:		**Country:**	
Fax:		**Email Address:**	

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☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Exceptional Top 5%	Very Good Next 10%	Good Next 15 %	Average Next 30%	Below Average Last 40%	Below Average Last 40%

_____ _____
Referee's signature is required (Insert image of your signature or print, sign and scan this page.) Date

Return form to Zonta Club of:		**Mailing Address:**	
City:		**State/Province:**	
Postal Code:		**Country:**	
Fax:		**Email Address:**	

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Verification of Current Enrollment Form for Zonta Women in STEM Award

I certify that _____ is currently enrolled in
(name of student)

_____ in _____
(year of degree program) (name of course/degree being studied)

at _____
(name of college/university/institute)

_____
(address college/university/institute)

_____
(signature of college/university/institute official)

_____
(**official stamp of the college/university/institute**)

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

Zonta Women in STEM Award
Program Privacy Policy and Publicity Authorization

Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women are committed to honoring the privacy and wishes of all our Zonta Women in STEM Award recipients at all times. In order to do this, please read the following information carefully and indicate your agreement as appropriate.

1. Most data collected by Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women is used only to help Zonta better serve its scholarship recipients. It is our general policy to collect and store only personal information that our recipients knowingly provide. Zonta does not sell, trade, or rent your personally identifying information to third parties. Except as described in paragraph two, we take reasonable measures not to disclose personally identifying information about you.

   ☐ I have read the above paragraph and agree to the Terms and Conditions therein.

2. From time to time, Zonta International and the Zonta Foundation for Women conducts various marketing activities to promote the Zonta Women in STEM Award. In addition, to ensure Zonta's ability to fund the awards, the Zonta Foundation for Women may from time to time provide information to donors about recipients of their donations. Zonta retains the right to use your name, photograph and biographical information to promote the Zonta Women in STEM Award in various promotional materials, including the website.

   ☐ I have read the above paragraph and agree to the Terms and Conditions therein.

_____

Please print your name

_____ _____

Signature is required (Insert image of your signature or print, sign and scan this page.) Date