Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)

PhD Fellowships for Women Scientists from Science and Technology Lagging Countries

How to prepare an excellent application

If you read through some of the comments from Selection Panel Members judging OWSD PhD Fellowship Applications you will get a good idea....

Recommended for an OWSD PhD Fellowship

- Research proposal interesting, innovative and up to date, clearly written
- Well prepared project proposal, detailed methodology.
- Strong academic background.
- Good reference/ supporting letters
- Host supervisor's experience and knowledge match project needs; laboratory resources at host institute good
- Research appropriate/beneficial to home country/ region

NOT Recommended

- Weak project proposal based on old ideas and references.
- Reference letters not informative or personalised, could be just a standard form.
- Project proposal not detailed.
- Use of statistics poor.
- Applicant has a strong background but not in the relevant field and does not justify this change or demonstrate how she will get up to speed
- Good project proposal but methodology and timeline missing.
- Good project proposal but timeline unrealistic and results are not reproducible.
- Project proposal interesting but not clear. Looks like a cut and paste from different subjects.
- Weak project proposal, addresses very common topic.
- Interesting project proposal, but outdated methodology. Weak student records.
- Project proposal topic not innovative. Applicant has not made clear if/how laboratory samples will be transported.
- Low scientific originality.
- Project proposal too ambitious.
- Standard of English used in proposal poor.
- Application contains typos/ errors/ inconsistencies.
- Research topic interesting, relevant to home country but structured rather as a survey than research. Weak academic background.
- Basic mistakes in reference letters (addressed to different students) mirror extreme inaccuracy of application.
- Project proposal lacks originality, methodology not clearly described.
- Confused project proposal, combines parts of research which do not seem connected to each other, lacks innovation.
- Weak academic background, weak reference letters.