

## Marion Milligan Mason Awards for Women in the Chemical Sciences

### FAQs

Administered by the  
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

#### **Objectives and Requirements**

The goal of the *Marion Milligan Mason Award for Women in the Chemical Sciences* is to kick-start the research career of promising future senior investigators in the chemical sciences. The Marion Milligan Mason Fund will provide four to five grants of \$55,000 every other year to women researchers engaged in basic research in the chemical sciences. Awards are for women who are starting their academic research careers. In addition to research funding, the program will provide leadership development and mentoring opportunities.

Applicants must be women who are:

- Teaching or research staff members and actually originating independent research work at an American Ph.D.-granting institution.
- American-born, naturalized citizens or permanent residents.
- Conducting their research in the U.S.

Applicants must have a “full-time” career-track appointment. More than one applicant from the same institution can apply for this award, provided that each application is scientifically distinct.

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are not eligible for this award.

Applications and supporting documents submitted for consideration for the awards will include:

- An application form and budget.
- A five (5) page research proposal.
- Four (4) letters of recommendation, including one letter from a top-level administrator at the applicant’s institution.

The recipients of the *Marion Milligan Mason Awards for Women in the Chemical Sciences* are required to participate in an award ceremony in Washington, DC and in professional development activities.

Awardees are expected to begin their work around January of the award year and end two years later. Awardees are expected to submit one or more grants for research in the chemical sciences 15 months after receiving the award.

## **A. Who is eligible to apply for the *Marion Milligan Mason Awards for Women in the Chemical Sciences*?**

### Applicants

- Must have completed a Ph.D. in chemistry, biochemistry, physiology, or any chemistry-related field.
- Must be early in a research career as teaching or research staff with 10 or fewer years since earning a Ph.D, at the time of application. Must not be a postdoctoral fellow.
- Must be actually originating independent research work in a U.S. Ph.D. granting institution
- Must be American-born, naturalized citizen or permanent resident.

## **B. How can I use the research funds?**

The award is intended to support the applicant's research project and provide career advancement. Funds should be used to support laboratory supplies, equipment and instruments, publications costs, computer and technical support, and attendance at domestic and international meetings and conferences.

Since applicants are expected to be in teaching or academic research careers, we expect that salary and fringe benefits will already be covered. However, if the applicant is requesting a portion of the funds to cover their salary, justification must be provided. Salaries for a technician and research assistants may be included in the budget proposal; however, the justification must indicate how these individuals will directly support the research of the applicant.

Indirect or fringe costs are capped at 5%.

## **C. What is the payment structure/timing of the Fellowship grant?**

The award is to the institution, similar to other grants. Please check with your institution before submitting this application.

An awards agreement will be set-up with the institution and the award will be paid in two installments. The first grant distribution, typically half of the total value of the award, will be paid at the award ceremony. The remaining balance will be mailed following submission and review of the required interim status report. The interim report is due six months after the initial grant distribution. Alternative schedules for funds distribution must be requested and explained in writing and must be approved by AAAS. Funds will be available for use beginning in January 2020.

## **D. What information should the project summary and description include?**

The proposal should be written in the third person and informative to those working in the same or related field(s), and understandable to a scientifically or technically literate reader.

The five-page proposal plan should include:

- Objectives or specific aims of the research.
- Relation to long-term goals of the project.
- Rationale and present state of knowledge in the research area.
- Results of prior research in this area, if applicable.
- General plan of work and brief description of research approach or experimental plan.
- Expected outcome and benefits of the project to society.
- Plans for sustainability of the research.
- Timeline.
- References.

The application includes separate sections for:

- Facilities, equipment, and resources (one page);
- A statement about how this award will advance the applicant's research and lead to a long-term career as a senior investigator in the chemical sciences (one page); and
- Budget and budget justification.

#### **E. What are the proposal review criteria?**

The proposal review criteria are as follows:

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?
6. Is there assurance that the institution intends the candidate to be an integral part of its research program? Are there strong letters of support from representatives of the institution?
7. Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding?
8. What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?
9. Will this award advance the applicant's research and lead to a long-term career as a senior investigator in the chemical sciences?

## **F. Who will review proposals and select awardees?**

Applications will be reviewed in two stages:

- (1) The stage one review is conducted by a panel of scientists and engineers who will review all completed applications. Each application will be reviewed by at least three (3) scientists. The top applications selected by this panel will be forwarded for final review and selection by the jury.
- (2) The stage two review is conducted by the jury. The jury is comprised of four (4) distinguished members of the chemical sciences community. The final award recipients will be determined by the jury.

## **G. What other activities are required as part of this award?**

Awardees are required to travel to AAAS headquarters in Washington, DC in October 2020 for two days of awards-related activities, including the awards ceremony, a two-day leadership training workshop, networking venues and other events. Topics for the professional development activities include communicating science to the public, understanding science research policy, discussion with program officers from federal science agencies, and publishing in *Science* and other journals.

The award activities will culminate in a luncheon ceremony at AAAS headquarters, including individuals from the chemical sciences community, federal agencies, and others. Each awardee will have the opportunity to talk briefly about her work and the importance of the Mason Award.

Awardees are required to acknowledge the *Marion Milligan Mason Award for Women in the Chemical Sciences*, administered by AAAS in print and online publications.

## **H. How are these awards supported?**

This award is funded by a bequest from the Marion Milligan Mason Fund. As a chemist and AAAS member since 1965, the late Marion Tuttle Milligan Mason wanted to support the advancement of women in the chemical sciences. Dr. Milligan also wanted to honor her family's commitment to higher education for women, as demonstrated by her parents and grandfather, who encouraged and sent several daughters to college.

In accordance with her will, a \$2.2 million bequest from Mason's estate will support research by early-career professional women in the chemical sciences over the next 20 years. This fund was created to *honor of the memory of all the men and women of the Tuttle and Milligan families who believed in higher education for women and encouraged them in their pursuit of professional and business careers, in particular:*

- *Charles H. Milligan, my father, (1886-1970), Ph.D. 1919, University of Chicago;*
- *Ruth Tuttle Milligan, my mother, (1891-1977), B.A. 1913, Vassar, M.A.*

1915, University of Pennsylvania;

- *Martin Adsit Tuttle, my grandfather, (1841-1932), who sent six daughters to college, the eldest (Alma Tuttle Milne) of whom graduated from Vassar in 1896 and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa in 1898 when the chapter was founded.*

In July 2012, Mason passed away in Bridgewater, New Jersey. She is survived by her brother, Dr. Barton Milligan, an AAAS Fellow, and his wife Carolyn in Asheville, NC and Freeport, The Bahamas, as well as her nephew, Charles H. Milligan of Wingdale, NY. For more information about the bequest see related AAAS news at <http://www.aaas.org/news/bequest-marion-mason-support-research-early-career-women-chemistry>

**If you have questions, please email [mfeder@aaas.org](mailto:mfeder@aaas.org)**