



**ZONTA**  
INTERNATIONAL

# **AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP**

# WHAT IS THE AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP?

**“At that time, few women considered a career in aerospace engineering, yet not one voice of doubt was raised as to the success of such a scholarship.”**

—Ellen Parks, then serving as Zonta International President

- Amelia Earhart (AE) Fellowship Program was approved in 1938.
- Commemorates groundbreaking aviator and Zontian Amelia Earhart

# WHO WAS AMELIA EARHART?

Amelia Mary Earhart was an American aviation pioneer and author.

She was the first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

She set many other records and wrote best-selling books about her flying experiences.

She was instrumental in the formation of The Ninety-Nines, an organization for female pilots.

She was the 16th woman to be issued a pilot's license.

Amelia made several notable flights, including becoming the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean in 1928, as well as the first person to fly over both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

# WHO WAS AMELIA EARHART?

- Amelia joined the Zonta Club of Boston in 1928. At the time of her disappearance, Amelia had been a member of the Zonta Club of New York since 1930.
- She mysteriously disappeared in 1937 while trying to circumnavigate the globe from the equator. Amelia was legally declared dead in 1939.





# AMELIA EARHART & HER FIGHT FOR EQUALITY

- Beyond Amelia's accomplishments as a pilot, she wanted to make a statement about the role and worth of women.
- She dedicated much of her life to prove that women could excel in their chosen professions just like men and have equal value.
- Some of her quotes that relate to the improvement in the status of women:
  - "I believe that a girl should not do what she thinks she should do, but should find out through experience what she wants to do."
  - "Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge to others."
  - "There's more to life than being a passenger."
  - "Some of us have great runways already built for us. If you have one, take off! But if you don't have one, realize it is your responsibility to grab a shovel and build one for yourself and for those who will follow after you."

# ZONTA INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHES THE AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP

- In 1938, Zonta's 4,000 members—in honor of their missing member, voted to establish the scholarship of US\$5,000 to be awarded each year to a woman for graduate study in aeronautical engineering.
  - 2023 will mark the 85<sup>th</sup> year for the fellowship
- The scholarship could be used in any school where aeronautical work of a high order was offered at the graduate level.

# ZONTA INTERNATIONAL ESTABLISHES THE AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP

- In 1938-39, aerospace was still in its infancy.
- It took Zonta two years to find a single qualified applicant to receive the first fellowship.
- Today women make up only 25 percent of the workforce in the aerospace industry.
  - To continue its mission that women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men, Zonta International offers the Amelia Earhart Fellowship in honour of its famous member.

# AE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM TODAY

Zonta's longest-running program

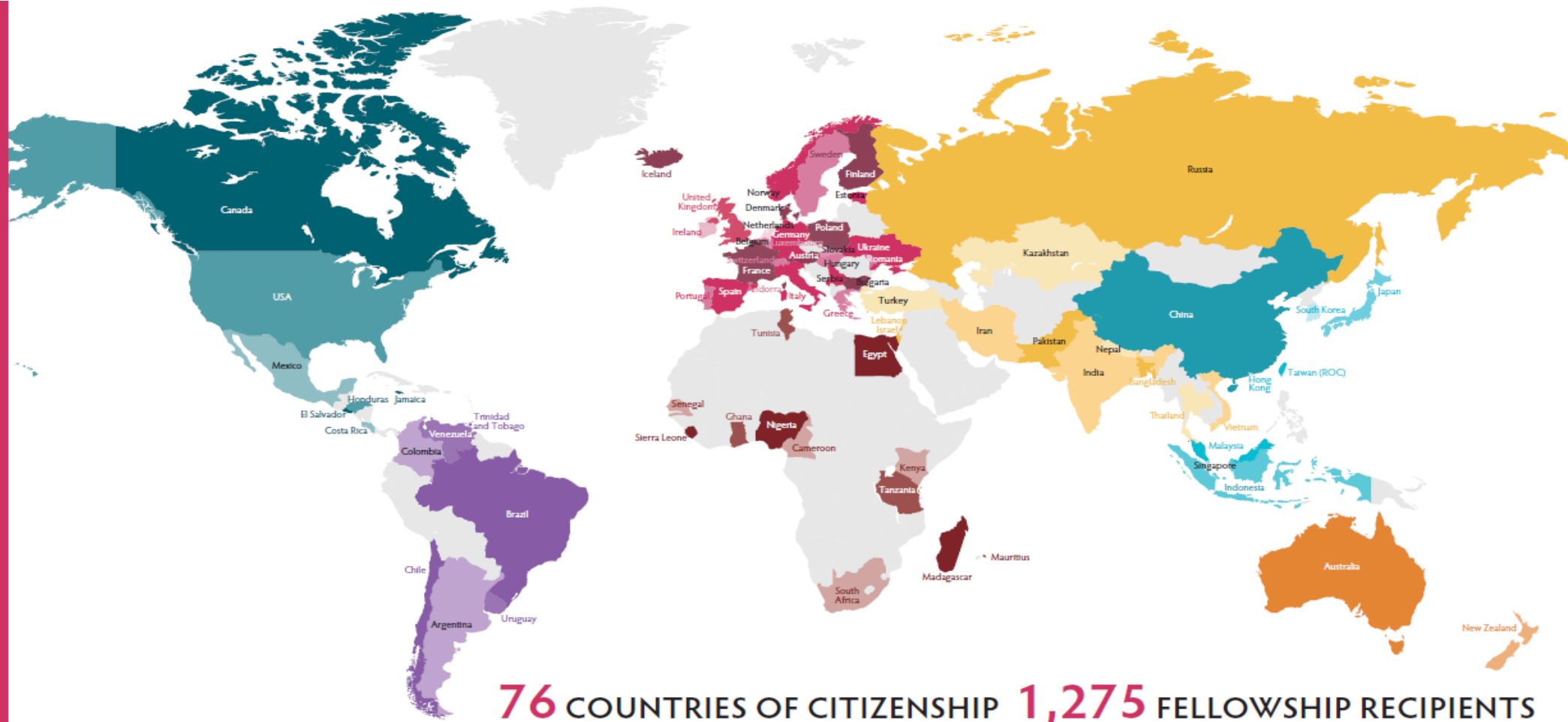
1,704 fellowships,  
totaling more than  
US\$11.3 million,  
given to 1,275  
fellows from 76  
countries

Enables women to  
move beyond  
constraints of their  
birth to study at an  
advanced level  
abroad

Alumnae have gone  
on to become  
astronauts,  
aerospace  
engineers,  
professors, CEOs,  
university  
chancellors,  
Secretary of the Air  
Force and more



# THE AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP



Andorra	1	Canada*	71	Finland	5	India	54	Kenya	1	Nigeria*	2	Singapore	1	Trinidad/Tobago	1
Argentina	4	Chile	3	France*	49	Indonesia	5	Lebanon	6	Norway	1	Slovakia	1	Tunisia*	3
Australia*	37	China, PR	73	Germany*	74	Iran	23	Luxembourg*	1	Pakistan	5	South Africa*	3	Turkey*	18
Austria	7	Colombia*	7	Ghana	2	Ireland	2	Madagascar	2	Poland	6	South Korea	14	Ukraine	4
Bangladesh	3	Costa Rica*	1	Greece*	10	Israel	15	Malaysia*	3	Portugal	6	Spain*	28	United Kingdom*	37
Belgium	11	Denmark	3	Honduras	1	Italy	55	Mauritius	1	Romania*	14	Sweden*	15	Uruguay	1
Brazil*	5	Egypt	10	Hong Kong	2	Jamaica	1	Mexico*	7	Russia*	12	Switzerland*	4	USA*	480
Bulgaria	6	El Salvador*	1	Hungary*	4	Japan	18	Nepal	3	Senegal*	1	Taiwan (ROC)*	11	Venezuela	1
Cameroon	1	Estonia	1	Iceland	3	Kazakhstan	1	Netherlands*	8	Serbia	1	Tanzania	1	Vietnam	2
								New Zealand	11	Sierra Leone	1	Thailand	6	Yugoslavia (formerly)	7

\*Fellows with dual citizenship are listed under both countries.

# AE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM TODAY

- Andrea Ghez, Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellow (1987), was awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in physics.
- Many fellows have also become members of Zonta International to support Zonta's efforts to provide educational opportunities for women and girls around the globe.
- Zonta's Past International President (2020-2022), Sharon Langenbeck, is a two-time winner (1977, 1978) of the fellowship. She was the first woman in her university to receive a Ph.D. in engineering.

# APPLICATION PROCEDURE



Women of any nationality pursuing a Ph.D./doctoral degree who demonstrate a superior academic record conducting research applied to aerospace engineering or space sciences are eligible.



Students must be registered in a full-time Ph.D./doctoral program on research applied to aerospace engineering or space sciences and have completed at least one year of that program, or have received a master's degree in an aerospace-applied field.



Applications are submitted online directly to Zonta International via the AwardSpring platform.



Applications are due by 15 November

# APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT:



Undergraduate and  
graduate transcripts



A description of their  
Ph.D. program of study,  
demonstrating its  
application to  
aerospace engineering  
or space sciences



Three letters of  
reference must be  
received: one from their  
academic supervisor  
plus two others



# AE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

- The AE Fellowship program is run through Zonta International by the AE Fellowship Committee, which:
  - Is appointed by the Zonta International president for the biennium.
  - Should include, but not be limited to, the committee chairman, a minimum of two committee members, the president and the president-elect.
  - Should represent a diversity in aerospace disciplines, diversity in regions of the world, and diversity in employment experience from university and industry.
  - Is made up of all past AE Fellows

# AE FELLOWSHIP REVIEW PROCEDURE

- The AE Fellowship Committee is primarily responsible for reviewing applications for the annual Zonta International AE Fellowships and recommending to the ZI Board a slate of proposed recipients, plus:
  - Developing strategies to meet program goals.
  - Preparing strategies that promote and disseminate information externally and internally about the fellowships.
  - Recommending changes to program procedures as needed, including updates and changes to the application forms and guidelines.
  - Work with the board and headquarters staff to ensure that the program goals are met.

# FUNDING THE AE FELLOWSHIP

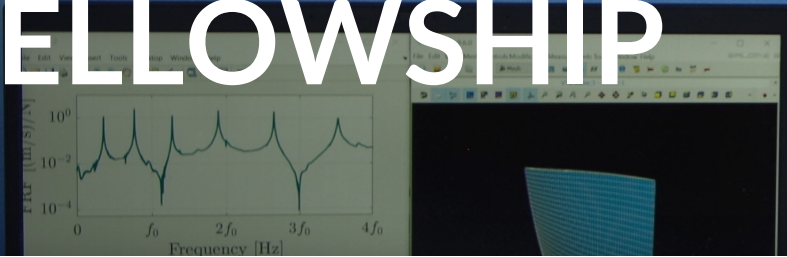


Funded from the annual donations of clubs, members and supporters of the Zonta Foundation for Women.

No funds come from annual membership dues.



# RAISING AWARENESS OF THE AE FELLOWSHIP



Zonta International relies on the members in the districts to support the program by:

- Raising awareness of the AE Fellowship among your members, educational institutions and young women in your district.
- Fundraising for the program in your club and area gatherings.



# Questions?

