

# FALLING WALLS FOUNDATION

## Terms and Conditions – Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2025

(As of March 2025)

### Who can participate?

- I. By opting in to Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2025, applicants confirm that their work has never been presented on the Falling Walls Breakthrough Stage before. Applicants can be nominated again with a different project/research topic.
- II. At the time of nomination, the nominee must be of full age according to their domestic legislation or older, however, no less than 18 years old.
- III. Nominations are open to all scientific disciplines, as well as all arts in the category “Art and Science.”
- IV. All rights to the presented work should be held by the presenter and be public before the submission/presentation to Falling Walls. By presenting on the Falling Walls Stage, presenters guarantee that their research methods and academic practices adhere to legal standards and established ethical values.

### Process

- V. The distinguished jury of each category will have access to all submitted documents of each applicant (all data the participant provides). Likewise, all members of a pre-selection committee and corporate partners, if existent, will have access to the documents. Nomination materials will be archived by Falling Walls. Personal data is shared with the Falling Walls Advisory Board (preselection committee), the panel of judges and the Falling Walls corporate partners. The data is processed in accordance with the applicable data protection laws.
- VI. Applicants will be informed of the success of their nomination following the respective nomination deadline. All decisions made by the pre-selection committee are final and there is no right of appeal. Should a participant, for cause, not be able to participate in Falling Walls events, they must inform the Falling Walls Foundation immediately. The Falling Walls Foundation has the right to invite other team members as a substitute.
- VII. The applicant is aware and agrees that during the presentation video and photo footage will be made to be published on the Falling Walls website, the website of sponsoring partners and be made available for media. Moreover, Falling Walls receives a non-exclusive licence to use the presented material in whole or in part, provided that the name of the presenter is stated in the context of the use. Such photos and video footage and presented material may be used in various media (i.e. social media, internet/website, press releases, newsletters, brochures, and printed materials).
- VIII. The Falling Walls Foundation will send you emails on events and activities of Falling Walls. You can at any time unsubscribe without charges either through written response or opt-out.
- IX. The determination of the Finalists and the Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2025 in each category is subject to the jury. The jury shall make a decision at its own discretion; all decisions are final and there is no right of appeal.

### Applicant Visibility

- X. Applicants may be asked to present their work in a video or other media. By submitting the content, the applicant consents to the publication (as a whole and in parts) via social media, in newsletters and on our growing content library at [www.falling-walls.com](http://www.falling-walls.com), as well as on YouTube and the platforms of our partners. By submitting the content, the applicant further confirms that they own the usage rights of all material in the content (e.g. photos, videos, music). Falling Walls reserves the right to adjust the content in length and according to our Falling Walls brand identity. The language of the Falling Walls Foundation is English.
- XI. The content shall not include indecent or unlawful material. Comments violating the free and democratic basic order may not be made public through the content or distributed in any other forum of the Falling Walls Foundation (including all social media channels).
- XII. Applicants are not allowed to include content with an inflammatory political or religious agenda.
- XIII. Applicants content must be in compliance with the law, especially design, patent, trademark and copyright law. Applicants must clear any third-party material before their presentation at the Falling Walls Foundation. The Falling Walls Foundation cannot be held responsible for a participant's violation of the law and cannot assist with this process or act as a consultant.
- XIV. The Falling Walls Foundation reserves the right to disqualify applicants from the event for cause.

Such cause shall exist in particular in the event of breach of the applicants obligations pursuant to sections XII to XIV or the eligibility criteria (I to IV).

#### The Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2025

- XV. The Science Breakthroughs of the Year in each category may be invited to attend the Falling Walls Science Summit in November 2025. This is subject to local and international travel regulations. The decision will be made in immediately at the Falling Walls Foundation's discretion.
- XVI. The Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2025 must hold a valid passport and apply for any required visa to Germany right after receiving the letter of acceptance to Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2025 in Berlin. The Falling Walls Foundation can provide an official invitation but cannot be of any further assistance in the visa application process. Moreover, the Science Breakthroughs of the Year are obliged to inform the Falling Walls Foundation immediately if the visa application was rejected.
- XVII. Accomodation and Travel: The reimbursement of accommodation and travel costs is specified for each project. The Falling Walls Foundation generally cannot cover travel or accommodation costs for more than one representative of each project.

#### Liability

- SXVIII. At the event, the organiser assumes liability pursuant to statutory conditions. No further liability shall exist.

#### Equality and Diversity

- XIX. The Falling Walls Foundation is committed to promoting equality and diversity and to eliminating all forms of discrimination.

By ticking the respective box in the nomination form, I confirm that I have read, understood, and accept the above listed terms and conditions. Website as of now (27th January 25).

## Terms and Conditions – Nomination for the Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2025 (As of March 2025)

- I. Corporate partners of the respective Falling Walls category have access to the application documents (data the applicant provides) of each applicant. Likewise, members of the pre-selection process and jury members of the respective Falling Walls category have access to the full application documents. There is no legal right to participation. Application materials will be archived in order to cross-check whether newly received applications were submitted by previous presenters and to document the permission to use material as stated above. Personal data is shared with the Falling Walls Advisory Board (preselection committee), the panel of judges and the Falling Walls corporate partners. The data is processed in accordance with the applicable data protection laws.
- II. Nominations have to be submitted by the date stipulated on the Falling Walls Foundation's website. Any nomination which has been submitted later than the aforementioned deadline will not be considered.
- III. The Falling Walls Foundation may involve the nominating institution at a later stage within the scope of the Falling Walls events.
- IV. Applicants will be informed about the outcome of their nomination following the respective submission deadline. All decisions made by pre-selection committees are final and there is no right of appeal.
- V. The selected applicants may be invited to attend the Falling Walls Science Summit in Berlin from 7-9 November in person. Selected applicants will be informed of any changes to the events in due time. Should an applicant, for cause, not be able to participate in the live formats of Falling Walls, they must inform the Falling Walls Foundation immediately. The Falling Walls Foundation reserves the right to invite a different applicant as a suitable replacement or invite the applicant to participate remotely.
- VI. Top applicants from the Emerging Talents, Science Start-ups, and Science Engagement categories, selected via category-specific processes, will be invited to present their ideas at the Pitches Day (November 7) as part of the Falling Walls Science Summit. The Breakthroughs of the Year in these categories will be selected by the jury on this day.
- VII. The determination of the Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year in each category is subject to the jury. The jury shall make a decision at its own discretion; all decisions are final and there is no right of appeal.
- VIII. The nominating institution consents to receiving emails related to Falling Walls events, with the option of unsubscribing either through written response or opt-out.

For more information, please read the category-specific terms and conditions.

By ticking the respective box in the nomination form for the Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year, I confirm that I have read, understood, and accept the above listed terms and conditions. Website as of now (27th January 25).