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## A Growing Demand

When Zonta International established the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program in 1938, few women pursued graduate degrees in science and mathematics. Aerospace was still in its infancy. It took Zonta two years to find a single qualified applicant to receive the first Fellowship, and the awards selection committee had to mentor potential applicants to help them become qualified for the awards. Today, as evidence of the increasing numbers of women in aerospace-related sciences and aerospace-related engineering, the challenge is choosing the most promising women from among the many qualified applicants.

As the number of applicants has increased over the years, so too has the amount of the Fellowship. Originally envisioned in 1938 as a US\$500 loan, the award was changed to a scholarship the following year; and, in 1964, the scholarship became a fellowship. Today, 35 Amelia Earhart Fellowships of US\$10,000 each are awarded annually. The increase in the amount of the award reflects the rising costs of education at graduate schools offering recognized Ph.D. programs in aerospace-related sciences and aerospace-related engineering.

## Zonta International

Founded in Buffalo, New York in 1919, Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy. Nearly 30,000 members belong to nearly 1,200 Zonta clubs in 66 countries. Zontians all over the world volunteer their time, talents and support to local and international service projects and educational programs that improve women's lives.

Zonta International Foundation, the official charitable foundation of Zonta International, advances and sustains Zonta's global service and advocacy programs. Through the Foundation, Zonta International helps women and girls overcome barriers to educational and professional advancement; provides opportunities for women to earn higher wages and achieve economic independence; ensures that women and children have access to quality, affordable health care; and strives to end violence against women while helping survivors of violence rebuild their lives.

Zonta International has "general consultative status" with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), "consultative status" with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and special relationships with United Nations entities promoting women's rights. Zonta maintains representatives at UN sites in New York, Geneva, Paris and Vienna and has participatory status with the Council of Europe.

For more information on the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program, please visit [foundation.zonta.org/AEFellowship](http://foundation.zonta.org/AEFellowship). To learn more about Zonta's global service and advocacy programs or membership opportunities, please visit [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org).



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## The Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program



**ZONTA**  
INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## THE AMELIA EARHART FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Amelia Earhart Fellows have achieved success in a variety of professions. Here is only a small sample of the more than 1,075 Amelia Earhart Fellows worldwide.



### DR. SHARON L. LANGENBECK

A two-time recipient of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship (1977–78 and 1978–79), Dr. Langenbeck retired from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in 2008 where she was Section Manager for Mechanical Engineering (1993–2004). She managed more than 225 mechanical engineers doing design and development of spacecraft, instruments and rovers for deep space exploration. For her work at JPL, she received three NASA Awards. At the University of Missouri-Columbia, she was recognized as one of the top 50 women on campus. She is currently vice president on the 2016-2018 ZI and ZIF Boards and is a member of the Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley, California, USA. She served as a board director in the 2014-2016 Biennium and Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Committee Chairman (1992–2000 and 2010–2014).

### DR. SUSANNA ZERBINI

A two-time recipient of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship (1973–74 and 1975–76), Dr. Zerbini is a Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Bologna, Italy. Dr. Zerbini received the 2009 Vening Meinesz Medal for her important contributions to the development of modern satellite geodesy and its applications to geodesy and geodynamics. She was one of the first who identified anomalous orbital effects and attributed them to the change of the shape of the satellites by solar radiation. She served as a member of the Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship Committee Program from 2008–2010.

### NAOKO YAMAZAKI

Ms. Yamazaki is a former astronaut with the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)—only the second Japanese woman to qualify as an astronaut. In 2006, she completed Astronaut Candidate Training at NASA that included scientific and technical briefings, intensive instruction in Shuttle and International Space Station systems, physiological training, T-38 flight training, and water and wilderness survival training. In April 2010, Naoko was a mission specialist on the Shuttle Discovery to carry equipment and materials to the International Space Station. A 1994 recipient of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship, Ms. Yamazaki has been a Zonta International Honorary Member since 2012. She received her Bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering in 1993 and a Master's degree in 1996 from the University of Tokyo.



In 1938, Zonta International established the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program, in honor of famed aviatrix and legendary Zontian Amelia Earhart, to encourage more women to pursue advanced studies and careers in the traditionally male-dominated fields of aerospace-related sciences and engineering. The Fellowship enables talented women, pursuing advanced studies in aerospace-related sciences and aerospace-related engineering, to invest in state-of-the-art computer equipment to conduct their research, purchase expensive books and resource materials, and participate in specialized studies around the globe.

In addition to the financial support the Fellowships provide, Amelia Earhart Fellows also benefit from being part of an international community of professional women who encourage and foster their professional development and success. In turn, Fellows encourage their peers' professional development and seek out opportunities to provide support and encouragement to other women in the field.

Since the inception of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Program, Zonta International has awarded 1,508 Fellowships, totaling more than US\$9.3 million, to 1,079 women from 70 countries. Many recent Fellows are from countries that do not support women in non-traditional roles.

Although female enrollment at all levels of education is increasing, women and girls continue to face barriers to education in science, math and technology and are under-represented in these areas of study and employment. Today, women remain a distinct minority in science and engineering, representing approximately 10 percent of professionals in these fields. Encouraging women and girls to study these subjects and pursue careers in these fields is essential to achieving gender equality, advancing economic development and scientific discovery, and addressing the shortage of skilled scientists, engineers and mathematicians worldwide.

THE FELLOWSHIP ENABLES TALENTED WOMEN, PURSUING ADVANCED STUDIES IN AEROSPACE-RELATED SCIENCES AND AEROSPACE-RELATED ENGINEERING, TO INVEST IN STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT TO CONDUCT THEIR RESEARCH, PURCHASE EXPENSIVE BOOKS AND RESOURCE MATERIALS, AND PARTICIPATE IN SPECIALIZED STUDIES AROUND THE GLOBE.

The Amelia Earhart Fellowship program enables these women to move beyond the constraints of their birth to study at an advanced level abroad. Amelia Earhart Fellow Alumnae have gone on to become astronauts, aerospace engineers, professors, planetary scientists, business owners, CEOs, university chancellors, Secretary of the Air Force, Director of Carnegie Observatories, Director of DARPA and Director of the Lunar and Planetary Institute. Many have also become members of Zonta International to support Zonta's efforts to provide educational opportunities for women and girls around the globe.