



# SIDS Fellowships

## for Small Island Developing States' water professionals

In August 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education jointly launched the project "Strengthening Small Island Developing States' capacity in the water sector to cope with the effects of climate change".

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of professionals and decision makers in order to improve water management in small island developing states (SIDS), to better address future challenges such as coping with the effects of climate change.

The beneficiaries of the project are water professionals who are responsible for key decision making processes in the governments of SIDS. The fellowship covers the cost of tuition fees, accommodation and travel.

UNESCO-IHE will provide at least 20 key water professionals with MSc level education on relevant topics for the SIDS, in two batches starting in 2015 and 2016. The 18 month MSc programmes include 6 months' field based research, to be conducted on specific problems in the home country of the participant. Furthermore, UNESCO-IHE will provide at least 50 water professionals and decision makers with specific expertise on relevant topics, by enabling them to enroll in UNESCO-IHE Short Courses that start in 2016 and 2017.

### UNESCO-IHE's selection criteria

- Academic Qualifications
- Gender (females will be prioritised)
- Equal distribution among countries and regions
- Employers' statement
- Developing state of SIDS-country (low Income countries will be prioritised)

When a final list of prospective participants is available, UNESCO-IHE will assign fellowships as equally as possible between the different eligible SIDS.

### Admission criteria

Admission requirements are the following:

- A Bachelor degree in a field related to the programme.
- In principle, candidates should have a minimum of three years of practical or research experience since graduation. All applications are, however, considered on their individual merits.
- The English language requirements for UNESCO-IHE's educational programmes.



## The need for capacity building of water professionals in SIDS

The Report of the United Nations Conference of Sustainable Development reiterated the importance of the Development of Small Island Developing States, as set out in the Barbados Programme of Action, for the overall achievement of the Rio +20 Agenda.

In SIDS, management of natural resources, particularly water, is a key issue: the quality and quantity needs to be preserved for the people, the environment and for the economic prosperity of SIDS, that often relies on tourism for their survival.

The Rio +20 Agenda acknowledges the importance of SIDS for future sustainable development, as set out in the Development of Small Island Developing States - Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

### About UNESCO-IHE

UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education is the largest international graduate water education facility in the world and is based in Delft, the Netherlands.

The Institute confers fully accredited MSc degrees, and PhD degrees in collaboration with partners. Since 1957 the Institute has provided graduate education to more than 14,500 water professionals from over 160 countries, the vast majority from the developing world.

### Vision & mission

UNESCO-IHE envisions a world in which people manage their water and environmental resources in a sustainable manner, and in which all sectors of society, particularly the poor, can enjoy the benefits of basic services.

The mission of UNESCO-IHE is to contribute to the education and training of water professionals, increasing of knowledge through research and strengthening the capacity of organizations, knowledge centers and institutions.

The core focus of UNESCO-IHE is on projects, organisations and institutes within the water, environment and infrastructure sectors of both developing countries and countries in transition.

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## *Strengthening Small Island Developing States' capacity in the water sector to cope with the effects of climate change.*

### How to apply

Interested candidates from eligible SIDS countries, who meet UNESCO-IHE's admission criteria, are advised to register as soon as possible.

The deadline for the 2016 MSc Programmes is **1 July 2016** and there are three deadlines for the 2016 and 2017 Short Courses:

**15 June 2016** for Short Courses starting between 5 September and 31 October 2016  
**12 October 2016** for Short Courses starting between 16 January and 24 March 2017  
**3 January 2017** for Short Courses starting between 3 April and 21 July 2017

Please consult the UNESCO-IHE website for more specific information.

Those interested in following either a Delft-based MSc specialization or Short Course, starting in 2016 can apply online, by filling out the application form on the specific page of the MSc programme or short course.

In all cases, a motivation letter needs to be included stating you would like to apply for a SIDS fellowship and why, following the specific programme, helps you or your organization to address future water challenges related to the effects of climate change in the specific SIDS country.

Please note that only Delft-based MSc specializations are eligible.

### Contact

Ms Marlies Baburek (m.baburek@unesco-ihe.org) for further instructions on how to apply.

### More info

[www.unesco-ihe.org/sids-fellowships](http://www.unesco-ihe.org/sids-fellowships)