

Young Water Diplomats Programme 2023

IHE Delft Institute for Water Education invites early career diplomats engaged and/or interested in international water and environmental politics to participate in a six months' hybrid training and networking programme. The Programme is targeted towards young professionals with a background in foreign affairs, international law or international relations and provides them with relevant and up-to-date scientific knowledge about water, the challenges water resources and related ecosystems face due to climate change and infrastructure development, its management and tools for transboundary governance.

Learning objectives of the programme

The content of the programme is designed to enhance an interdisciplinary understanding of transboundary water challenges and advance tools for water cooperation and diplomacy, as well as to strengthen professional networking among the next generation of leading water and environmental diplomats.

Successful completion of the programme will enable early career diplomats to strengthen their expertise and skills in contributing to prevention and mitigation of conflicts related to water and environment, as well as to environmental peacebuilding. Knowledge gained through the programme is relevant for diplomats in national services as well specialists working for regional and international organizations.

After this six-month programme, participants will be able to:

- Understand key aspects of water resources and the challenges they face (including the hydrological cycle, hydrological monitoring and modelling, infrastructure and its effects, climate change impacts)
- Evaluate key challenges that transboundary freshwaters (ground- and surface water) face under different conditions
- Understand key aspects of water resources management (including integrated water resources management approaches, and tools and approaches to water diplomacy)
- Assess and apply different institutional arrangements and diplomatic tools for water cooperation
- Analyse and compare lessons learnt from water conflict and cooperation in different basins in the world
- Integrate interdisciplinary knowledge in problem-solving and collaborate in intercultural and transdisciplinary teams.

Content of the Programme

The Young Water Diplomats Programme will be conducted from January to June 2023 (six months). During this period, participants will be engaged in online and in-person learning activities consisting of lectures, reading assignments, group work, and discussions with experts.

Thematic lectures delivered by leading academics will be coupled with interventions from practitioners. Interactive meetings with diplomats who have experience in the fields of water and environmental peace-building will create additional space for sharing experiences and getting first-hand knowledge.

The programme consists of bi-monthly webinars that will take place online through the duration of the Programme. In addition, it includes two face-to-face workshops in Delft, the Netherlands.

Requirements of the Programme

Participants are expected to spend on average about 4 hours per week in order to fulfil the minimum requirements of the programme. Webinars will take place twice a month on work days during working hours in the CET timezone. In addition, for the in-person meetings in April and June, physical travel to the Netherlands is expected.

The average monthly workload of 16 hours includes the following mandatory activities:

- Active participation in two webinars per month (lectures, discussions, presentations, and other activities)
- Preparatory readings
- Contribution to group work
- Fulfilment of self-paced individual assignments
- Participation in two workshops in Delft (April and June 2023)

Costs

The programme fee is 1400 EUR. This does not include travel, visa, insurance, living expenses and accommodation costs for the face-to-face meetings in Delft.

Candidates from low- and middle-income countries who meet all of the eligibility criteria can apply for a scholarship that covers programme-related expenses, including the programme fee and travel-related costs (for more information, see the FAQ below). Please check the following list to identify which countries are considered as eligible to apply for the coverage: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2021-flows.pdf>. Please check the information below for more information about the scholarships.

In 2023, the YWD Programme focuses on the three regions: MENA/Horn of Africa, the Sahel, and Central Asia. We particularly encourage participation of early career specialists from these regions. However, the application is open to participants from other regions as well.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to participate, applicants must:

- be at an early stage of their career, priority is given to applicants who are below the age of 40
- have working experience in the field of international relations, foreign affairs, diplomacy, conflict resolution, and cooperation – preferably in environment or water-related issues
- have strong command of English (ability to read and understand academic literature, and articulate thoughts clearly)

Application process

Follow this link to apply for Short course “Young Water Diplomats 2023”: <https://apply.un-ihe.org/>. Applications will be able to apply for the Programme after creating IHE account and filling in all the required information.

Please be prepared to submit your motivation statement in the required format (https://www.un-ihe.org/sites/default/files/template_for_the_motivation_letter_ywd_programme_2023.docx), bachelor diploma and transcript, CV, and copy of identity document.

The deadline for application is 31 October 2022.

Application for funding

There are a limited number of fellowships for applicants from low- and middle-income countries for funding by the [Third IHE Delft Water and Development Partnership Programme \(DUPC3\)](#). The list of the countries eligible for scholarship can be found here: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2021-flows.pdf>.

In the application form you can indicate you wish to apply for a scholarship.

Please note that participants who will be considered for a scholarship will be requested to provide a formal confirmation of their employer about their availability for participation in the programme.

Background information

The Young Water Diplomats Programme is offered under the IHE Delft Partnership Programme for Water and Development funded by the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (<https://www.un-ihe.org/>) is the largest international graduate water education facility in the world with the mandate in the following three activities – education, research and innovation, and institutional strengthening. IHE Delft offers tailored, high-quality education and research in Delft and overseas, through strong partnerships within the Netherlands and with other international partners, especially in the Global South.

The first edition of the YWD Programme was implemented in 2022. Impressions can be found here: [Young Water Diplomats Programme – helping future leaders learn about water](#) or here: ([Promoting Youth Leadership in Water Governance](#))

Contacts

If you have questions about the content and requirements of the Programme, you can send them to the email WaterDiplomacy_Project@un-ihe.org.

If you have questions about the application process, please contact Ms Titia van der Zee, fellowship and admission officer (t.vanderzee@un-ihe.org)

Further information

Official webpage of the Programme: <https://www.un-ihe.org/young-water-diplomats-programme>

Answers to some frequently asked questions can be found here: https://www.un-ihe.org/sites/default/files/faq_ywdp_ihe_delft_29092022.pdf