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UNU-IAS Ph.D. Fellowship Programme 2009

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Introduction

In April 1996, the UN Secretary-General inaugurated UNU-IAS as an in-house community of scholars mandated to research issues at the intersection of societal and natural systems. The Institute's mission is to advance knowledge and promote learning for policy making to meet the challenges of sustainable development. As an advanced studies institute, UNU-IAS is, forward-looking and multidisciplinary.

Since 1996, UNU-IAS offers Ph.D. Fellowships to candidates in the last stages of their dissertation process to broaden their perspectives to other related scientific fields, and to expose them to international policy making circles. So far, more than 90 fellows from some 50 countries have passed through the Ph.D. Fellowship Programme. Of those completing the programme about one third have been women, and developing country participants have outnumbered developed country participants.

About two Ph.D. Fellowships are awarded each year for a period of ten months, starting in September.

The fellowship programme provides the successful applicant with a unique opportunity to:

- develop and advance their research under the supervision of a UNU-IAS member and contribute to the overall research agenda of the Institute,
- widen their research interests and professional networks by working in the international and multi-disciplinary context of UNU-IAS, and with its wider network of Japanese universities and research institutes, as well as international collaborators,
- become exposed to the workings of the international and multilateral policy process and the broader UN system, and
- link with other UNU-IAS and UNU PhD and Postdoctoral fellows.

The fellows are resident at UNU-IAS in Yokohama, Japan for the full term of the fellowship. This gives them the opportunity to gain from the broader research programme of lectures, seminars, workshops and conferences arranged by UNU-IAS. The Institute's close links with Japanese affiliated professors and visiting professors from key universities and think tanks in Japan also allows fellows to link into the broader Japanese academic and research community.



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Fields of Research

The purpose of the UNU-IAS Ph.D. Fellowship is to provide young scholars and policy-makers, especially from the developing world, with a multidisciplinary context within which to pursue advanced research and training that is of professional interest to the applicant and of direct relevance to the research agenda of UNU-IAS. Research proposals for UNU-IAS Ph.D. Fellowships should therefore relate clearly to one of the current research areas of the Institute, as well as aim to be policy relevant. For 2009 research proposals are invited in the following four areas:

1. Science and Technology for Sustainable Societies

The solution to the twin challenges of global poverty and climate change could be found through science, technology and sustainable innovation. We must guide technological change and innovation to create a greener, cleaner and creative economy. Poverty can be tackled only if we invest in education, science and technology and innovation systems in developing societies. We have at our disposal right now the scientific knowledge, research skills and innovation capability to change the situation. What we lack is the will and the foresight to implement a new governance mechanism for scientific knowledge production and markets that are fair and accountable for the management and diffusion of technology and fair circulation of innovation on a global scale in an equitable manner. The international governance of science and technology – the parameters within which the international community integrates scientific information into decision making, facilitates innovation and ensures access to technology by those who need it most – are critical for addressing these and other critical sustainability challenges.

For 2009 research proposals are invited in the following themes:

- Science, technology and sustainable innovation
- Innovations systems for sustainable development
- Science and technology policy
- Access to Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development
- Globalization of science and research
- The role of science advice in the United Nations System
- Governance of science and technology

Contact: [Govindan Parayil](#)

2. Sustainable Urban Futures

The Sustainable Urban Future programme considers cities and urban spaces as key elements to local, regional and global sustainable development. As populations concentrate in the world's cities, the future growth of urban centres is of particular concern for planners and policy makers in both the developed and developing world. However, contemporary patterns of urban growth do not conform to previous experiences and expectations. Large cities in the developing world have been attracting millions of rural people for economic opportunities. But



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these economic migrants end up in sprawling slums living without any meaningful basic necessities like housing, sanitation, clean water and energy. This "new urbanization" is associated with the emergence of large urban regions, which interact with their hinterlands for food, water and other resources. How and where cities will grow, what drives their growth, what impacts they will have on the environment and how best to manage them is yet to be understood. Managing these urban centres is vital for combating climate change and promoting sustainable development while remaining the economic life blood of developing countries.

Research proposals are invited for 2009 in the following general thematic areas:

- Measuring future urbanization
- Urban futures and climate change
- Urban futures and vulnerability
- Urban futures and social sustainability
- Urban futures and democratic governance
- Urbanization and sustainable development
- Urban futures and the creative economy

Contact: [Govindan Parayil](#)

3. Biodiplomacy Initiatives

The Biodiplomacy Initiative's work centres around policy related issues arising from the conservation and use of biological resources and associated knowledge and technologies. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the key multilateral environmental agreement around which much of the Biodiplomacy Initiative's activities are focused. Other important international instruments that the Biodiplomacy Initiative works on in this context include the UNFCCC, ITPGRFA, UNFF, UNCLOS and UNPFII.

Research proposals are invited for 2008 on the following broad topics:

- Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and the International ABS Regime
- Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- The Regulation of Biotechnology
- Payment for Environmental Services provided by Biodiversity (particularly forest biodiversity)
- Climate Change and Biodiversity, Indigenous issues
- Protection and Use of Traditional knowledge

Contact: [Sam Johnston](#) and [M.S. Suneetha](#)

4. Sustainable Development Governance

Solutions to pressing global sustainability challenges such as climate change, the loss of biodiversity, and the degradation of land, freshwater and coastal systems, require integrated policy making that cuts across economy, society and the environment. Policy-relevant research and capacity development activities on



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Sustainable Development Governance at UNU-IAS is aimed to link into ongoing MEA and WTO processes, and the UN system in general.

Research proposals are therefore invited in 2009 on any of the following themes:

- Key Questions and Challenges for Post-2012 Kyoto Regime
- Sectoral Approach/Trade Impacts of the Climate Change Challenge
- Economic Case for Adaptation: Case Studies
- Question of Climate Justice/Development and Climate Change
- Interlinkages: Climate Change, Biodiversity, Land Degradation
- Adaptive Policy Making in Times of Uncertainty
- Accession to the WTO and Sustainable Development
- Biofuels, Trade and Climate Change
- UN System-Wide Coherence on Sustainable Development Governance

Contact: [Claudia ten Have](#)

Eligibility and Conditions

Applicants must be at the dissertation writing stage of their Ph.D. with a research proposal accepted by the candidate's university. Language proficiency in English is essential. Applicants from developing countries and women are particularly encouraged to apply.

UNU-IAS Ph.D. Fellowships are awarded for a period of 10 months. The starting date of the Ph.D. Fellowship Programme is 1 September. Successful applicants are required to be in Yokohama by this date. Residency in Yokohama for the full duration of the fellowship is required.

Fellows are provided with their own desk in a dedicated study room in the Institute, administrative support and desktop computing. Fellows have access to the UNU Library in Tokyo which includes an excellent collection of UN documents. They also have access via the UNU Library to various Japanese university libraries and computer databases. A limited range of other, more specialized computer hardware and software may also be available.

The fellowship provides for a monthly stipend of JPY260,000 from which a monthly usage charge for accommodation is deducted (see below). A one-time only instalment of JPY 80,000 will be granted to each fellow at the beginning of the programme for adjustment expenses and incidental costs. UNU-IAS provides fellows with a return air ticket between his/her country of residence and Narita Airport.

Fellows carry out their research in Yokohama under the supervision of a UNU-IAS faculty member and/or affiliated UNU-IAS network scholars. Fellows will spend about half of their working hours on their dissertation and the remaining half assisting the Institute's projects and activities.



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Accommodation

Ph.D. Fellows will be provided accommodation by UNU-IAS (within 30 minute walk from the Institute). The accommodation is furnished and includes kitchen and bathroom facilities. Usage charges other than utilities (electricity, water, gas, telephone, etc.) are as follows:

Single room apartment (for one person)	JPY80,000 or more per month
Twin room apartment (for couples)	JPY130,000 or more per month

Starting Date and the Application Deadline

The UNU-IAS Ph.D. Fellowship Programme begins on 1 September 2009 and the selected fellows are required to be in Japan by this date. **The closing date for applications is 31 March 2009 (17h00 Tokyo time) for fellowships beginning on 1 September 2009.**

To Apply

The following documents must be submitted (Note: When the document is in another language, please attach an English translation):

- (1) Interested and eligible candidates are invited to complete the **application form**. The online application is available at www.ias.unu.edu/fellowships. Application forms can be also downloaded from the website or obtained through email (fellowships@ias.unu.edu), and completed electronically or printed and completed by hand. The preferred method of submission is by email.
- (2) An essential part of the application form is a **research proposal** outlining the intended work at UNU-IAS. *The proposed work can also form part of your Ph.D.* (See Application, Question Nr. 25)
- (3) **Application letter** that clearly outlines how candidate's qualifications and research proposal meet the requirements and objectives of the fellowship.
- (4) Certified copies of **academic transcripts** (Master's and Ph.D. courses if applicable)
- (5) Detailed **Ph.D. research proposal** and chapter outline
- (6) Evidence of **English language proficiency** (only required if Ph.D. dissertation is not submitted in English) e.g. TOEFL score, certificate of proficiency.
- (7) Two supporting **letters of reference** to be sent directly to UNU-IAS by the referees before the application deadline. One should be from the candidate's PhD dissertation advisor or other supervisory faculty member.

Above documents can be scanned and sent by email to fellowships@ias.unu.edu together with the application form as one package at the stage of application. Short-listed candidates may be requested to submit the originals.

Applicants are evaluated on the following criteria:

- *The research objectives of the applicant and the quality of the research proposal;*
- *the relevance of the research proposal to the ongoing or planned research activities of the applicant's selected Research Programme at UNU-IAS;*
- *the applicant's academic merit and the potential for successful research while at UNU-IAS.*

Short-listed candidates will be contacted for a telephone interview.

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