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# UNU-IAS Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme 2010

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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 October 2000, UNU-IAS offers Postdoctoral Fellowships for recent PhD graduates to provide them the opportunity to put the knowledge and expertise acquired during their doctoral research to practical policy-relevant use. So far, nearly 40 fellows from some 20 countries have passed through the Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme. Of those completing the programme, about one third have been women, and developing country participants have outnumbered developed country participants.

About two Postdoctoral 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 faculty 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 or at UNU-IAS OUIK in Kanazawa, 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.

## **Fields of Research**

The purpose of the UNU-IAS Postdoctoral 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 Postdoctoral Fellowships should therefore relate clearly to one of the current research areas of the Institute, as well as aim to be policy relevant. Research proposals are invited in the following areas:

### **1. Science and Technology for Sustainable Societies (UNU-IAS)**

#### General Objective of the Research

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 2010 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

#### Required qualifications:

- Ph.D. degree (no ABDs), preferably in a field related to applied social or environmental sciences.
- Demonstrated research skills in similar areas
- Fluency in English is essential and a working knowledge of other languages is desirable



## **2. Sustainable Urban Futures (UNU-IAS)**

### General Objective of the Research

The Programme on Sustainable Urban Futures analyzes how cities in developing countries create the institutional capacity to implement effective environmental policies with social inclusion. In this context, local authorities and organizations have played important roles in the policy implementation to tackle climate change, even though the focus of media and literature is mostly on debates at the global or country level. The fellow will research the patterns of environmental governance and policy implementation in the case of one or more cities in developing countries. He/she is expected to understand the role of governmental and non-governmental organizations have played in climate change related policies and how those policies are linked to environmental and other local and national policies.

### Required qualifications:

- Ph.D. degree (no ABDs), preferably in a field related to applied social or environmental sciences, such as urban planning, development studies, public policy, management or economics.
- Demonstrated research skills in similar areas
- Ability to design and implement research involving field work
- Fluency in English is essential and a working knowledge of other languages is desirable

## **3. Biodiplomacy Initiative (UNU-IAS)**

### General Objective of the Research

The Biodiplomacy Initiative's work centres around policy related issues arising from the conservation and use of biological resources and associated knowledge and technologies, and its relation to human well-being. 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.

The selected fellow will undertake policy relevant research within their key areas of specialization including biological sciences, international law, economics, development studies, and related areas. S/he will work together with an interdisciplinary team, and is expected to have an understanding of interlinked concepts on biodiversity and human well-being and have the capacity to carry out research relevant to global, national and local scales. Researchers for post doctoral positions are invited to work on any of the areas mentioned below.

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



Required qualifications:

- Ph.D. degree (no ABDs), preferably in a field related to applied social or environmental sciences, such as environmental management or economics.
- Demonstrated research skills in similar areas
- Ability to design and implement research on environmental policy issues
- Fluency in English is essential and a working knowledge of other languages is desirable

#### **4. Marine Governance and Coastal Management (UNU-IAS OUIK)**

General Objective of the Research

The United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa (OUIK) was established in April 2008 as the first UNU operating unit in Asia and the sixth globally. It is a strategic think tank whose mission is to link local knowledge to global issues. The fellow is expected to develop research in one or more of the following areas:

- Climate change in marine and coastal areas, including its impact on coastal communities,
- Coastal and ocean management, in particular through application of tools and approaches such as marine spatial planning and the ecosystem approach,
- Ports and coastal cities,
- Ecological, economic or cultural aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity,
- Ocean or coastal pollution.

It is important that the research be policy-oriented and link local issues with global debates. The Fellows in this research project will be based in Kanazawa, Japan.

Required qualifications:

- Ph.D. degree (no ABDs), in social or environmental sciences in the area of the call or doctoral graduates from natural or health sciences who have worked with policy-oriented issues,
- Demonstrated research experience in marine and coastal issues
- Ability to design and implement research involving field work
- **Fluency in English is essential and a working knowledge of other languages is desirable.**

#### **Eligibility and Conditions**

Applicants must have obtained a Ph.D. (or at least successfully defended their doctoral dissertation), in an area broadly associated with the UNU-IAS thematic focus, prior to the application deadline (28 February 2010). Language proficiency in English is essential. Applicants from developing countries and women are particularly encouraged to apply.

UNU-IAS Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded for a period of 10 months. The starting date of the Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme is 1 September. Successful applicants



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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 JPY290,000 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.

Eligibility for a second 10-month appointment may be considered based on the fellow's performance.

### Accommodation

Postdoctoral Fellows will be provided accommodation by UNU-IAS (within 30 minute walk from the Institute). 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 Deadline for Applications

The UNU-IAS Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme begins on 1 September and the selected fellows are required to be in Japan by this date. **The deadline for application for the 2010 fellowships is 28 February 2010.**

The online application is available at [www.ias.unu.edu/fellowships](http://www.ias.unu.edu/fellowships) or can be obtained through e-mail: [fellowships@ias.unu.edu](mailto:fellowships@ias.unu.edu).

### Selection Criteria and Process

Applicants are evaluated on the following criteria:

- (i) The research objectives of the applicant and the quality of the research proposal;
- (ii) the relevance of the research proposal to the ongoing or planned research activities of the applicant's selected Research Programme at UNU-IAS;



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- (iii) the applicant's academic merit and the potential for successful research while at UNU-IAS.

**After the initial review of all complete applications, short-listed candidates will be contacted for a telephone interview. The final decision will be announced to the successful candidates in April 2010.**

### Contacts

#### Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme

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