

UNFCCC – UNU

Early Career Climate Fellowship Programme

INTRODUCING THE
EARLY CAREER CLIMATE
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
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ABOUT UNU AND UNFCCC



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-EHS

Institute for Environment
and Human Security

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Significant training and investment go into building capacity amongst high-potential early career professionals from developing countries. However, many in this talent pool lack relevant work experience so they struggle to secure meaningful engagement in the international arena that would contribute to sustainable development. To help fill this gap, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations University (UNU) established the UNFCCC–UNU Early Career Climate Fellowship Programme in 2017. This collaborative initiative offers young people from developing countries a unique opportunity to start their career at the interface between international climate policy development and research.

Academically outstanding young graduates from developing countries who are in the early stages of their careers, especially women from least developed countries, are encouraged to apply.

The fellowship lasts for at least one year, with the possibility of an extension to two years, and fellows will be selected based on their skills and backgrounds vis-à-vis the needs of UNU and UNFCCC.

Fellowships will include assignments at various divisions in UNFCCC and UNU. Each fellow will therefore have a unique experience which supports their own career aspirations as well as the needs of the two organizations.

Upon completion, the fellows will be well-equipped and able to work in their home countries or internationally, deploying the valuable experience and insights they have gained in Bonn, Germany, where this fellowship is based.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- ☑ Candidates should be a national of a developing country, with preference being given to women from a least developed country (as per the UN country classification); dual nationality will not preclude the candidate from further consideration;
- ☑ Academically outstanding young graduates from developing countries, especially women from the least developed countries, are encouraged to apply.
- ☑ Candidates should have recently graduated with an advanced university degree (Master's, doctorate, or equivalent), or be enrolled in their final semester, in fields related to climate change and environment, communications, international relations, or a related field;
- ☑ Candidates should provide evidence of top academic performance (i.e. scholarships, graduation with honors, etc.) from a graduate school programme (i.e. Master's or doctorate). Candidates holding only a Bachelor's degree and who have not yet completed or who are not yet in the final semester of a Master's degree programme will not be considered;
- ☑ No professional experience is required; candidates with up to two years of work experience in total can also be considered.

ABOUT UNFCCC

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the focus of the political process to address Climate Change. The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system, in a time frame which allows ecosystems to adapt naturally and enables sustainable development. With 197 Parties, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has near universal membership and is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and the 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement. The main aim of the Paris Agreement is to keep a global average temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The Convention secretariat supports the Convention, the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol by a range of activities, including substantive and organizational support to meetings of the Parties. Further information on UNFCCC may be found at:

www.unfccc.int

ABOUT UNU

The United Nations University (UNU) is an international community of scholars, engaged in research, postgraduate teaching and capacity development and dissemination of knowledge in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The mission of UNU is to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations and its Member States. For more information, please visit:

www.unu.edu

The mission of the Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) is to carry out cutting edge research on risks and adaptation related to environmental hazards and global change. The institute's research promotes policies and programmes to reduce these risks, while taking into account the interplay between environmental and societal factors. Research areas include climate change adaptation incorporating insurance-related approaches, environmentally induced migration and social vulnerability, ecosystem services and environmental deterioration processes, models and tools to analyze vulnerability and risks linked to natural hazards, with a focus on urban space and rural-urban interfaces. Research is always conducted with the underlying goal of connecting solutions to development pathways.

For more information, please visit:

www.ehs.unu.edu

Dr. Youssef Nassef, Director of the UNFCCC's Adaptation Division, said of the programme: *“Experience has shown that young, qualified professionals from developing countries represent one of our best resources for building capacity for climate action. As we have moved with determination into the new era of implementation of the Paris Agreement, we need to equip young people with the skills to green economies and build resilience, and this initiative is an example of how organizations can prepare young people for the challenges of the future.*

We will also continue building their skills so they can better secure employment in the workplace. Many of the young people we will be supporting need real-life experience to get on the job ladder. What we are doing is also a living example of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) under Article 6 of the Convention. Climate empowerment ranges from education to training in respect to climate change: So we are securing a great, dynamic human resource and giving back with a positive, empowering experience in partnership with UNU”.

Prof. Dr. Shen Xiaomeng, Director of UNU-EHS, said: *“Climate change is the greatest challenge humanity has ever encountered. What could be better than engaging young professionals from developing countries to join the climate action, as their generation will be at the forefront of dealing with the consequences of climate change and their countries will be amongst the most affected?*

Enabling these young professionals to pursue their passion and play a pivotal role in climate action and sustainable development will not only change their career paths, but also change the path of humanity. The number of the fellows might be small, but its symbolism is powerful.”