UNU-GEST invites nominations for Spring Term 2019

UNU-GEST, in co-operation with the University of Iceland, conducts an annual 20-week (January–May) postgraduate diploma programme (30 ECTS) in Iceland. The programme focuses on the structures and mechanisms necessary to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment through education, training and research on issues of relevance to developing and fragile societies.

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About UNU-GEST

United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (UNU-GEST) was founded in 2009, and became a member of the United Nations University in 2013. The mission of UNU-GEST is to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment through education, training and research on issues of relevance to developing and fragile societies.

UNU-GEST offers limited number of fully funded fellowships but also seeks co-sponsorship from organizations, where full or partial costs for fellows (travel and accommodation) are covered by the nominating organization. Deadline for applications for scholarships is 30 May 2018. The study programme (30 ECTS) consists of six modules in spring semester 2019, thereof two elective modules:

Module 1
- THEORIES AND CONCEPTS

Module 2
- PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR GENDER SENSITIVE PROJECTS

Module 3A
- HEALTH, VIOLENCE AND BODILY VIOLENCE

Module 3B
- GENDER AND EDUCATION

Module 4A
- GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY

Module 4B
- GENDER AND THE LABOUR MARKET

Module 5
- GENDER, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Module 6
- APPLIED FINAL PROJECT

To nominate candidates, AWEEF organisations or members are invited to submit nominations for fellowship through our website. After this nomination has been reviewed, nominees will be asked to submit a personal application to UNU-GEST. Upon initial screening, personal interviews are held with potential candidates. Fellowships are all-inclusive and cover travel expenses, campus housing, clothes allowance, visa and per-diem cost during the five month period, in addition to the academic programme.

Useful links:
- UNU website
- UNU-GEST newsletter
- Student handbook 2018
- Studying in Iceland
- Pictures from field trip

UNU-GEST is also on Twitter @unugest and on Facebook
Examples of final assignments by alumni fellows

Socio-economic Empowerment of Women Through Agroforestry in Lira and Pader districts, Uganda (Hellen Nansikombi, 2014)
The project proposal aims to address the gender gap in agroforestry programs to enhance women’s participation. Increased dependence on natural resources as a primary source of livelihood has led to environmental degradation in Uganda which adversely affects food security, income and livelihoods of local communities. Provision of credit to women, community mobilization, and awareness raising is proposed to promote full participation of men as well as women in agroforestry.

Strengthening GBV Preparedness and Prevention in Refugee Camps, Palestine (Toni Bero, 2015)
A multi-sectoral approach is taken to a multi-sectoral approach to tackle gender-based violence (GBV) within refugee populations by strengthening GBV preparedness and prevention in emergency situations. The project applies a results based framework to strengthen organizational capacity and participation of target communities and beneficiaries.

Gendered Value Chain Analysis of Mangoes in Malawi (Nthamyo Thandie Mbeye, 2016)
The project proposal lays the foundation for future investment and interventions in the mango sub-sector and offers a gendered analysis of the mango value chain in Malawi. A variety of gender-related issues are identified at each stage of the mango value chain, and strategies to be taken into consideration when improving and upgrading a mango value chain.

Study in Iceland
The UNU-GEST programme is located at the heart of the University of Iceland campus. The fellows get access to modern study facilities, working spaces and the University Library. The fellows are who require a laptop are provided with one for their use during their studies and academic reading material is made available on the University’s intranet. Accommodation is offered on campus. These are private rooms with shared kitchen and bathroom. The study time is from January through May, which means that fellows come to Iceland during the coldest time of the year when the day is the shortest, and leave Iceland when spring is arriving. Fellows go on a number of field visits in relation to their studies as well as longer field trips.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the Programme for me?
Yes, if you are a young professional who possess good English skills and have an undergraduate degree, then you fulfil the requirements for the Programme. However, you also need to be passionate about gender equality and eager to become a leader for change, and willing to positively contribute to a dynamic group in an enriching learning environment. Your family and work circumstances need to allow for you staying abroad from January through May 2019.

Who covers the costs?
The funding of the diploma programme is based on scholarships that are either: 1) funded directly by the UNU-GEST programme or 2) by funding agencies, such as development agencies and other development partners, embassies and governments. The scholarships are all-inclusive and cover all travel costs for fellows, housing on campus, cloths allowance and per-diem during the five month period, in addition to educational facilities, learning material and lessons.

How do I apply?
Candidates shall be nominated by an institute or organisation in which they are employed by or by an agency sponsoring their studies in Iceland. Direct applications from prospective fellows are not accepted. Once nominated, candidates are offered to submit an application form and other required documentation. Those fulfilling programme requirements will be invited to an interview with UNU-GEST staff.

How do I apply my learning in the future?
Candidates come from array of different sectors each year, which adds to the diversity and dynamic of group work. The focus is very practical and you will acquire diverse skills applicable in different settings, such as project management, public speaking, academic writing, monitoring and evaluation, project proposal writing, innovation, leadership and analytical skills. You will learn methods and gain practical tools to address gender inequality in different contexts. Further, you will understand gender dynamics in different settings and have more in-depth knowledge of certain issues, such as gender-based violence, education, environment, gender-responsive budgeting, security and health.