



GENDERING WATER AND CLIMATE SCIENCE RESEARCH IN SOUTH ASIA

Note to Applicants

The South Asia-based university consortium which comprises three South Asian technical universities from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Nepal is launching the South Asian Water (SAWA) Fellowship Program on gendering water and climate science research with support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. The program will be awarding fellowships to (21 women, and 14 men) across the 3 project countries and Universities toward their postgraduate and doctoral research (30 Masters/5 PhDs). The ultimate goal of the program is to train fellows in interdisciplinary methods and gender analysis in Water and Climate Science research.

The program will place emphasis on the capacity development of the fellows in the application of research methods that include gender and social approaches through intensive training workshops, mentorship, working papers, and graduate seminars. The program will promote the incorporation of theoretical frameworks for the integration of water research across the social and natural sciences; the introduction of new methods conducive to inter-disciplinary research on water and climate science through improving and restructuring the existing curriculum and pedagogical innovation. In addition to this, the program will also lead to the formation of country-level platforms of various sectoral experts and stakeholders, which will provide sustained mentorship to fellows, particularly women fellows.

Selection Criteria of the Fellows

Candidates enrolled in an IWRM master's program and Ph.D. program are eligible to apply for the fellowship. Selection of the candidates for awarding the fellowship will be done based on a **Statement of Purpose (SOP)** and an **oral interview**. Three criteria will be assessed:

1. **Interest in interdisciplinary research:** candidates should have an interest in working across boundaries of knowledge and creating new knowledge from various sources;
2. **Academic talent:** candidates value learning and have the drive to complete their training;
3. **Commitment to giving back:** candidates have a demonstrated commitment to improving their communities.

In addition, the applicant's proficiency in English will be also assessed as a part of the SOP. There is no age limit.





A common SoP template is prepared by the research team and also shared with the universities. SoPs prepared by the candidates in the given format will be sent to the members of the selection committee well in advance of the interview. SoPs were assessed based on the given criteria, like:

- Degree of inter-disciplinarity in the proposed research idea,
- Definition of broad objective and research questions,
- The relevance of the proposed research to climate change and social elements,
- Understanding of gender and its integration in the research idea,
- Technical knowledge and leadership skills.

After assessing the SoPs, oral interviews will be conducted at the Universities. The additional criteria that were used to assess the applicants during the oral interview are as follows:

- Applicant's understanding of the proposed research, Basic concepts of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM),
- Understanding of gender,
- Interest in interdisciplinary research,
- Commitment towards completing the program and thesis.

While the composition of the selection committee varied across the institutions, the program coordinator and the Head of the Department and/or the Principal of the respective institution, and the lead regional researcher and regional research coordinator will be consistently a part of the committee at each institute. The score given by each panelist was ranked and then aggregated and the top students securing the highest marks were awarded the fellowship and the next two students were placed on the waiting list. The research associates will be responsible for collecting the SoPs from the applicants, organizing the interview, and preparing the minutes of the interview meeting, while the regional research coordinator at PGIA will be responsible for preparing the recruitment report.

Expected Outcomes

The fellowship would require the awardees

- to have their dissertation/thesis submitted at the end of two years for the post-graduate students and three years for the doctoral students, irrespective of any extension if provided by the institution.
- A letter of commitment has to be signed by the awardee to ensure his/her commitment towards research and other components of the fellowship program for a period of two/ three years from the date of the award of the fellowship. Only in unforeseen circumstances (which will be decided on a case-by-case basis) will the awardee be allowed to withdraw from the agreement, albeit at the discretion of the project coordinator and the project leader.
- Upon completion of the program, within two/ three years, each awardee will receive an attestation letter of good achievement from IDRC.





Institution-wise number of fellows to be selected:

Universities	M.Sc.		Ph.D.		Total	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
PGIA	6	4	2	1	8	5
BUET	4	2	1	1	5	3
NEC	8	6	0	0	8	6
Total	18	12	3	2	21	14

