

South Asian Water (SAWA) Leadership Program on Climate Change

Note to Applicants

The South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERS) is launching the South Asian Water (SAWA) Leadership Program on Climate Change. With support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the program will be awarding fellowships to 36 women enrolled in master's-level Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) programs in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and providing these women with opportunities to access decision-making environments through internships. The ultimate goal of the program is to increase the number of women occupying leadership roles in the water sector.

The program will place emphasis on intensive trainings in the application of research methods that include gender and social approaches, and in leadership skills development through activities such as team-building sessions, communication skills, application of negotiations and conflict resolution in the field as well as mentorship and networking. The program will also facilitate internships (e.g., with governments, research institutions, NGOs and the private sector) in order to provide an authentic work environment. In addition, the program will promote an interdisciplinary approach to how social and cultural interpretations of gender intersect with the issues of climate change and water insecurity through the development of a common curriculum across four water engineering institutions.

Selection Criteria

All women candidates enrolled in an IWRM master's program are eligible to apply for the fellowship. Selection of the candidates for awarding the fellowship will be done based on Statement of Purpose (SOP) and an oral interview. Three criteria will be assessed: 1) Potential to lead: candidates will become role models, mentors and problem-solvers; 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.

The fellowship would require the awardees to have their dissertation/thesis submitted at the end of two years, irrespective of any extension if provided by the institution. The fellowship amount for the last six months will be released to the grantee only upon the submission of dissertation/ thesis. A letter of commitment has to be signed by the awardee to ensure her commitment towards research and other components of the fellowship program for a period of two years from the date of award of 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 the two years, each awardee will receive an attestation letter of good achievement from IDRC.