



UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water Education

The **UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education** offers graduate education in Delft, The Netherlands, and carries out research, innovation, and capacity development projects all over the world. The mission of UNESCO-IHE is to contribute to the education and training of professionals and to develop the capacity of sector organizations, knowledge centres and other institutions active in the fields of water, the environment and infrastructure in developing countries and countries in transition. Hence, the institute plays a key role in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals agenda addressing local water challenges worldwide and with a focus on the Global South.

UNESCO-IHE has a permanent staff of 180, of which 90 are scientific staff, while about 250 guest-lecturers from academia and industry contribute to the educational programme. Each year 750 participants (incl. about 200 new MSc students per year) from all over the world attend the various regular and short courses at UNESCO-IHE.

The **Integrated Water Systems & Governance department** covers a broad range of disciplinary knowledge – sociology, law, economics, public administration, political science, information technology, mathematics, hydrological and hydraulic modelling sciences, engineering, knowledge management and innovation studies. The department now offers a PhD fellowship, namely for a:

PhD on Citizen Science (Full Time)

Research focus & tasks

This PhD study is embedded in the Horizon 2020 project 'Ground Truth 2.0 – Environmental knowledge discovery of human-sensed data' (2016-2019). The project is undertaken by 14 partner organisations and aims to demonstrate and validate six scaled up citizen observatories in real operational conditions, in EU and Africa. Dr. Uta Wehn from UNESCO-IHE is the Project Director and will supervise this PhD study.

The PhD study will focus on the (evolving) incentives and barriers for the stakeholders' involvement (which may differ considerably per demonstration case) and feed these insights into the project to update the stakeholder engagement strategy. For example, concerns about trust, privacy, accountability etc. among non-engaged parts of the population may be holding back the further up-scaling of the observatories. These leverage points can be addressed once identified.

We offer a dynamic and challenging PhD fellowship in an international environment. The PhD fellow will have the unique opportunity to carry out action research on citizen science. The study will be challenging since it will be thoroughly embedded in the Ground Truth 2.0 project and therefore will need to feed into concrete project outputs at pre-determined and fixed dates.

We are therefore looking for candidates who meet the following requirements:

- Motivated to do high quality scientific research
- Master degree in a relevant social science discipline, e.g. sociology, psychology or political science with demonstrable training in qualitative and quantitative research skills and with excellent grades
- Experience with citizen science (in theory and/or practice) and willingness to learn more about innovative data collection methods (e.g. using Big Data)

- Excellent written and spoken command of English, as demonstrated by previous course work and/or publications in English; Spanish and/or Dutch language skills are an advantage
- Demonstrated academic writing skills;
- Experience in working in an international environment;
- Ability to combine creative and analytical thinking;
- Ability to collaborate in groups as well as carry out work individually;
- Willingness to contribute proactively to the development of the Ground Truth 2.0 project

Terms & timing

The Ground Truth 2.0 project will start on 1 September 2016 and the PhD fellow will have to start at the same time or as soon as possible thereafter. The four year fellowship includes the tuition fee, monthly allowance (ca. €1200,- per month), insurance and residence permit. The PhD fellow will be based in Delft, with fieldwork in selected Ground Truth 2.0 demonstration case locations.

Information and application

UNESCO-IHE PhD Fellowship Application Procedure

We need the following information (**hard copies only**) to consider your application:

- completed PhD application form, see <http://www.unesco-ihe.org/phd-programme>
- a detailed curriculum vitae
- originally certified photocopies of academic BSc and MSc transcripts/marksheets (the stamp on the copy should be original), in English and the original language, if applicable
- originally certified photocopies of academic BSc and MSc diplomas/degrees/certificates (the stamp on the copy should be original), in English and the original language, if applicable
- a research outline (see below) of how you will address the PhD topic (not more than 5 typed sides of A4)
- the abstract of your MSc thesis
- 2 reference letters (no format)
- copy of your passport
- an English test (see below)

The **research outline** is to include:

- 1.1. Title of the proposed research: what title gives the best description of the research?;
- 1.2. Background: what is known in literature (provide references), in what way is the intended research unique? Moreover, provide three research objectives;
- 1.3. Theoretical context: indicate relevant conceptual frameworks you will review and select from to address the research objectives;
- 1.4. Materials and methods: indicate the research steps, relevant data collection methods and instruments, parameters, measurements, expected steps for data analysis. Be as concrete as possible;
- 1.5. Preliminary results: what do you expect to be the results of the study? Can you illustrate these in graphical form?
- 1.6. Preliminary conclusions: what conclusions do you expect to be able to draw?
- 1.7. References.

For admission to UNESCO-IHE's PhD programme, candidates need to hold an MSc degree obtained with very good results. After receipt of the degrees, we send it to the Diploma Validation office of Nuffic. They inform us if a degree is equal to UNESCO-IHE standards.

Once we have received your application, your diplomas and transcripts will be validated by the Diploma validation office of Nuffic and the supervision team, Dr. Uta Wehn (Associate Professor of Water Innovation Studies) and Professor Ken Irvine (Professor of Aquatic Ecosystems) will consider whether to propose you for academic admission. An interview, phone call or skype session may be part of this process. If the supervision team accepts you, you will get an unconditional admission letter.

However, if the results of your **English test** are not available at the time of submission, the admission letter will be conditional. For more information on the English requirements please see: <http://www.unesco-ihe.org/node/323>

More detailed information on UNESCO-IHE and our Programmes can be found at www.unesco-ihe.org
Details about admission can be found under the FAQ's and under Research or Education/PhD.

Additional information can be obtained from Jolanda Boots, Admission and Fellowship Officer:
j.boots@unesco-ihe.org

Please note that we accept hardcopies only. Applications in English can be sent until **21 August 2016 (closing date)** to Jolanda Boots, Admission and Fellowship Officer by airmail/post.