



External Academic Relation Office at Birzeit University and **UNU-GEST** invite masters students to apply for a joint Erasmus+ and UNU-GEST fellowships to attend the 2018 Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in International Gender Studies at the University of Iceland. The programme will run from January 8 to May 24, 2018 in Reykjavík, Iceland.

Selection of the fellows is based on the following criteria. The candidate must:

- Be enrolled in a masters programme at Birzeit University
- Have experience related to the themes of the UNU-GEST Programme
- Be not older than 35 years of age
- Be proficient in spoken and written English

Interested students are invited to submit their applications for fellowship to the Birzeit University's External Academic Relations Office (external.relations@birzeit.edu) no later than **4 August 2017**. Application forms are available at External Relations Office and on the [UNU-GEST web-site](#). UNU-GEST will interview qualified candidates and select the two candidates from Birzeit University.

In addition to the academic programme, the fellowships covers travel expenses and visa costs, campus housing and daily allowance during the study period. By the end of the programme, students will be awarded a post-graduate diploma in international gender studies and be able to transfer 30 ECTS to the academic programme in their home county.

Module 1 • THEORIES AND CONCEPTS

The focus rests on some of the main concepts used in the gender equality discourse. Theoretical and critical frameworks are analysed and discussed, and issues concerning gender equality and minority groups are explored from a historical perspective and in a human rights context. Differences in terms of religion, sexuality, and ethnic groups are explored • **Module leader:** Thomas Brorsen Smidt

Module 2 • PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR GENDER-SENSITIVE PROJECTS

The module introduces methods and provides fellows with tools and skills to conduct gender-sensitive analyses of social and cultural conditions, information and policies. A special emphasis is on project management, management for results, monitoring and evaluation, gender-responsive budgeting, gender mainstreaming and leadership • **Module leaders:** Erla Hlín Hjálmarsdóttir, Kirstín Flygenring and Dr. Elisabeth Klatzer

Module 3 • GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY

The modules aims to increase the fellows' ability to understand and discuss the gender dimensions of security in practical terms, especially with regards to relevant UNSC resolutions, security sector reform and emergency operations. It examines the concept of human security versus national security and the role of women in conflict, peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction • **Module leader:** Various

Module 4 • GENDER, HEALTH, VIOLENCE AND BODILY INTEGRITY

This module focuses on gender relations and norms, and resulting behaviours, affecting physical and mental health and bodily integrity. The approach explores how gender differences and inequalities result in unequal health status and health care, and how unequal power relations contribute to gender-based violence and ill-health • **Module leader:** Kristjana Sigurbjörnsdóttir

Module 5 • GENDER, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The role of gender in sustainable development, natural resource management and resilience building is explored. The focus rests on gender and climate change as well as gender relations in fisheries, energy production and use, agriculture and land management as well as the dynamics of environmental theories in practice • **Module leader:** Dr. Irma Erlingsdóttir

Module 6 • APPLIED FINAL PROJECT

Fellows work on an applied project of their choice throughout the duration of the programme under supervision of their advisers. The project is either in a form of an essay, addressing a specific gender relations problem and identifying strategies to counter it, or a project proposal, which outlines all the necessary steps and activities needed to solve a problem and implement a project • **Module leader:** Various

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 low-income and fragile societies.

UNU-GEST conducts an annual 20-week (January–May) postgraduate diploma programme (30 ECTS), in co-operation with the University of Iceland, focusing on the structures and mechanisms necessary to promote gender equality and advance women's empowerment.

The target group are professionals from developing countries and post-conflict societies working for government ministries and agencies, as well as professionals working for civil society organizations and educational institutes. Prospective candidates are selected in cooperation with institutions and organisations identified as having key roles in promoting gender equality.

Teaching staff consists in academics, gender specialists and practitioners, and renowned international lecturers contribute to the programme each year.

Useful links:

- [UNU website](#)
- [UNU-GEST June Newsletter](#)
- [Student handbook 2017](#)
- [Studying in Iceland](#)
- [Pictures from field trips](#)

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Examples of final assignments by alumni fellows

Public Policies, Parenthood and Gender Equality in Mozambique (Alberto Cumbi, 2013)

The project examines the role of public policies on parenthood in generating gender equality in Mozambique. The focus is on how these policies boost equal participation of both genders in maternal and infant healthcare as well as the sharing childcare responsibilities between men and women, given that caring for children is perceived as predominantly woman's responsibility. Using the gender assessment model developed by the Interagency Gender Working Group, the project uses a critical gender lens to determine if the commitments outlined in policy frameworks are followed by effective and strategic actions.

Strengthening GBV Preparedness and Prevention in Refugee Camps, Palestine (Toni Bero, 2015)

A multi-sectoral approach is taken 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 the organizational capacity and participation of target communities and beneficiaries.

Enhancing Women Farmers' Adaptive Capacity to Cope with Climate Change in Kamuli District, Uganda (Stella Tereka, 2016)

This project contributes to strengthening adaptive capacity and improving the livelihoods of a rural population, in order to enhance the resilience of women with the specific objectives of: increasing capacity development of farmers and extension district staff; strengthening district and lower local government's knowledge and capacities for gender-sensitive climate change programming; and challenging gender stereotypes through household gender equality advocacy and household mentoring.

OPEN CALL

July • 2017



Alumni experiences



Limbani Zakeyo Phiri, Malawi (2015 alumni)

"The GEST Programme builds one's confidence in tackling gender issues. The diverse experience shared by fellows and lecturers offers very good insights and enriches most discussions. The huge networking opportunities it offers are a platform, from which you can easily develop your profession in the gender fields. The programme oozes competency, professionalism and continuous excitement."



Rosália Pedro, Mozambique (2011 alumni)

"The GEST Programme enhanced my knowledge in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment. The programme improved my skills in approaching gender and helped me to think "outside of the box". Now I realize that gender equality is more than having equal access to opportunities and resources. I think that if women were given the chance to participate in all stages of development, this would reduce inequalities."

Studying 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. During the studies, academic reading material is made available on the University's intranet. Accommodation is provided on campus. These are private rooms with shared kitchen and bathroom. The study time is from January through May.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the Programme for me?

Yes, if you are a young professional who possesses good English skills, if have an undergraduate degree and are currently enrolled in a master's programme, then you fulfil the requirements for the joint Erasmus+ scholarship and UNU-GEST fellowship programme. 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 student group in an enriching learning environment. Your family and work circumstances need to allow you to stay abroad from January through May 2018.

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 Erasmus+ and UNU-GEST fellowships are all-inclusive and cover all travel expenses, housing on campus, clothing allowance, visa costs and *per-diems* during the five month period, in addition to educational facilities, learning materials and classes.

How do I apply?

Interested students can submit their applications for fellowship to Dr. Amir Khalil (amkhalil@birzeit.edu) no later than **4 August 2017**. Following the interviews with qualified candidates final selection will be conducted by UNU-GEST.

How do I apply my learning in the future?

Candidates come from an array of different sectors each year, which adds to the diversity and dynamics of group work. The focus is very practical and you will obtain 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 improve your understanding gender dynamics in different settings and gain a more in-depth knowledge of certain issues, such as gender-based violence, education, environment, gender-responsive budgeting, media, security and health.