



UN Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean
Affairs and the
Law of the Sea

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Strategic Needs Fellowship



United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

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STRATEGIC NEEDS FELLOWSHIP: OBJECTIVES

Overall Goal:

The objective of the Strategic Needs Fellowship, is to assist developing States, particularly least developed countries (LDC), small island developing States (SIDS), and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) in addressing strategically important and time-sensitive issues in ocean affairs and the law of the sea.

Specific purpose:

Upon completion of the Fellowship, Fellows are expected to return to their roles equipped with enhanced knowledge of international legal frameworks, key ocean affairs issues, and best practices. This will enable them to effectively assist their States in implementing the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), its implementing agreements, including the BBNJ Agreement, and related instruments, as well as Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and other related SDGs.

CURRICULUM AND ACTIVITIES



Set to run from early September to mid December, the Strategic Needs Fellowship consists of a four-month training programme at the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), United Nations Headquarters in New York.

A highly customized curriculum is developed by the Division for successful candidates, tailored to the high-priority needs identified in their applications and supported by their Nominating Authorities, with a view to building the capacity of Government officials to assist their States in effectively addressing those needs.

The curriculum comprises in-person training sessions, scenario-based exercises, group discussions and workshops delivered by United Nations staff and visiting experts.

The curriculum also includes seminars and practical exercises aimed at strengthening the professional skills of the Fellows, conducted by United Nations staff and external experts.

To support the Fellowship's objectives, Fellows will also have the opportunity to observe intergovernmental meetings and other multilateral processes at United Nations Headquarters.

The deliverables of the Fellowship Programme include assignments, a research paper prepared by the Fellows, and the development of an ocean governance matrix.

WHO CAN APPLY AND HOW?



The call for applications for the 2025 session is now open. The deadline for submitting the complete application is 30 March 2025. Awards are expected to be announced by the end of May. Please check our website for updates.



The Programme is committed to achieving 50/50 gender balance and geographical diversity among participants. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

KEY APPLICATION DOCUMENTS:

Application Form: Completed and signed by the candidate, this form includes relevant personal information, educational qualifications, employment record, and a description of the identified needs.

Nomination and Recommendation Form: Completed and signed by the Nominating Authority—a Government official who can attest to the nature of the candidate's work, support the identified needs, and indicate the practical outcome of the Fellowship and expected use of the Fellows' training.

ELIGIBILITY **CRITERIA**

Applicants must:

- Be between the ages of 25 and 45.
- Have successfully completed a first-level university degree.
- Must be Government officials from developing countries dealing directly with issues related to ocean affairs and the law of the sea.
- Identify two strategic needs in ocean affairs and the law of the sea for their countries that need to be addressed.
- Must be free of all non-Fellowship obligations during this entire period unless otherwise authorized by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs.

APPLICATION **PROCESS**

Candidates must complete the application package available for this Fellowship in the "Apply Now" section on the UN-Nippon Foundation Programmes website (<https://www.un.org/oceancapacity/content/apply-now>). To apply, candidates must:

- Complete the required application forms.
- Submit the application forms, along with a copy of their passport, to the following email address: doalos@un.org
- Complete the online form, the link to which is provided on the Application Form.



Glenn Ostle, World Oceans Day Photo Competition, 2023

For inquiries, please contact us at:



doalos@un.org

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For more information on the Strategic Needs Fellowship, please visit:

<https://www.un.org/oceancapacity/content/unnf-strategic-fellowship>