

**United Nations - Nippon Foundation Fellowship Programme
and Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Fellowship**

Objectives

General

The objective of the Fellowship is to provide opportunities for advanced education and research in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea and related disciplines, including marine science in support of management frameworks, to Government officials and other mid-level professionals from developing States, so that they may obtain the necessary knowledge to assist their countries/regions to formulate comprehensive ocean policies and to implement the legal regime set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and related instruments.

The 9-month Fellowship Programme is composed of two consecutive phases which provide Fellows with advanced and customized research and training opportunities in their chosen fields:

Phase One: 3-month Research and Training - undertaken at the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (DOALOS) at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Phase Two: 6-month Advanced Academic Research and Study - undertaken at one of the participating Host Institutions, under the guidance of subject-matter expert(s) who have recognized in-depth expertise in the Fellows' chosen fields of study.

Phase Three (for the United Nations - Nippon Foundation Programme): consists of being Alumni of the Programme and members of the Alumni Network. The Network is a global platform that serves the evolving capacity and networking needs of the Alumni as they progress through their careers, in recognition of the continuing and rapid developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea.

Phase One

The First Phase has several objectives, relating to research, development of professional skills, familiarization with the work of the United Nations, and training in oceans and the law of the sea.

1. Fellowship reporting requirements (see further details in the Annex below)

By the end of the First Phase, Fellows are expected to provide the Programme Advisor and Academic Supervisor a detailed draft annotated table of contents of their thesis, as per the mandatory outline structure (to be provided), and a one-page abstract.

Fellows will be required to make a presentation outlining their research and thesis to an audience of Fellows and DOALOS staff members.

In addition, Fellows will complete an ocean governance matrix to better understand relevant legal/policy, political/diplomatic and institutional/operational frameworks across ocean sectors at national/regional levels and identify possible gaps.

2. Law of the sea and ocean affairs training

Fellows will gain an in-depth understanding of the legal regime established by UNCLOS and related agreements, as well as of ocean multilateral processes (see also point 4 below).

They will learn about the main developments in ocean affairs, in particular in the context of the United Nations, relating, for example, to the UNCLOS regime, including the delineation of maritime zones; sustainable fisheries; biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction ('BBNJ'); maritime security; the human dimension of ocean affairs; sustainable ocean-based economies; ocean governance; oceans and climate change; and the implementation of SDG 14 and other relevant SDGs. They will also learn about the activities of the bodies established under UNCLOS (the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the International Seabed Authority, and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) and of relevant United Nations system organizations and processes. Fellows will observe or learn about relevant United Nations processes related to oceans, with a view to reinforcing their understanding of ocean affairs and the law of the sea.

The above objectives will be achieved through the delivery of presentations to the Fellows by recognized experts, including United Nations staff, as well as through observing multilateral processes, followed by group discussions and exercises. Interactions with diplomats and civil society representatives active in ocean processes will also be organized.

3. Professional skills development

Professional skills development activities will be organized for the Fellows, including theory lectures and practical exercises.

In particular, the Fellows will receive training on:

- Report writing skills, which they will practice by preparing substantive reports relating to the intergovernmental meetings which they observe;
- Presentation skills, which they will practice through short presentations to the other Fellows, as well as a final presentation outlining their research and thesis plan to an audience of Fellows and DOALOS staff members;
- Research skills, including in relation to United Nations documents;
- Negotiation and leadership skills; and
- Strategic communication skills.

These training sessions will be taught by United Nations staff, as well as by external professionals.

4. *Observing United Nations intergovernmental meetings*

During the First Phase, the Fellows will observe relevant United Nations oceans and related meetings, with a view to reinforcing their knowledge of the law of the sea and the professional skills development activities listed above.

Depending what meetings take place during the Fellowship session, Fellows may expect to observe or learn about the following:

- Sessions of the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;
- Informal Consultations of States Parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement;
- The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea;
- The Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects; and
- The Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Phase Two

The objective of the Second Phase, at the academic host institution, is for a Fellow to conduct further individual academic research on their proposed research topic, and to finalize their thesis under the guidance of an assigned Academic Supervisor.

Fellows are also expected to contribute to the academic and research undertakings of the host institution, as appropriate and to the extent that such contributions do not interfere with the fulfilment of their research and writing obligations under the Fellowship Programme. Such contributions may include, inter alia, guest lecture(s), seminar(s), research and writing.


Annex


Reporting Requirements for Fellows


The submission of the reports as outlined below is one of the responsibilities accepted by Fellows. Note that if reports are not completed and submitted in a timely manner, a Fellowship Completion Certificate will not be issued and relevant nominating authorities and Governments will be formally notified of this. DOALOS reserves the right to modify the Fellowship Reporting Requirements at any time. Candidates are advised to visit the Fellowship website regularly for Programme updates.

I. First Phase

Fellows are required to complete an academic research paper (thesis) as an output of the Programme. The precise scope of this paper will be determined through consultations with the Academic Supervisor and the Programme Advisor during the initial stages of the First Phase placement.


 Fellows are required to provide the Programme Advisor and Academic Supervisor with a detailed draft table of contents as per the mandatory outline structure (which will be provided in MS Word format) and a one-page abstract before they begin drafting their paper. This should normally be done by the end of the First Phase placement.


 Fellows will be required to present their research thesis to an audience of Fellows and DOALOS staff members. The presentation will last no more than 30 minutes and will be immediately followed by a 30 minute question and answer session. Fellows should be prepared to address substantive questions and justify their research topic and approach.

 Fellows will be required to undertake a national / regional ocean policy and law inventory for their State and/or region during their tenure with DOALOS. A standardized format has been developed and Fellows will be provided with customized assignments in this respect upon arrival at DOALOS.

Note that the above requirements do not preclude the Fellowship Programme Advisor from assigning additional and/or alternate requirements.

II. Second Phase

 The final research paper should be no more than 100 pages, including bibliography and annexes (12 point font and 1.5 line spacing). It must be edited to the standard of an academic journal publication (including proper referencing and footnotes) and include the following: title page, abstract page, disclaimer page, acknowledgement page, table of contents, list of tables and list of figures (as required), list of acronyms, bibliography and annexes (as required).

 Upon completion of the Second Phase placement, Fellows are required to provide 1 electronic copy of their final research paper to the Programme Advisor and 1 electronic copy to the Academic Supervisor. The thesis must be submitted by the end of the Fellowship Programme, and in no case later than 31 December.

Note that the above requirements do not preclude an Academic Host Institution, with the concurrence of the Fellowship Programme, from adding alternative and/or additional requirements during the Fellows' tenure with the said institution.

III. Other reporting requirements

Fellows will be required to complete feedback surveys at the end of the First Phase, as well as at the end of the Second Phase of the Programme.

As Alumni of the Programme, they will also be invited to participate in ongoing activities and required to complete online surveys from time to time after the end of their Fellowship.