

About UNU-GEST

Information for applicants from Uganda 2015

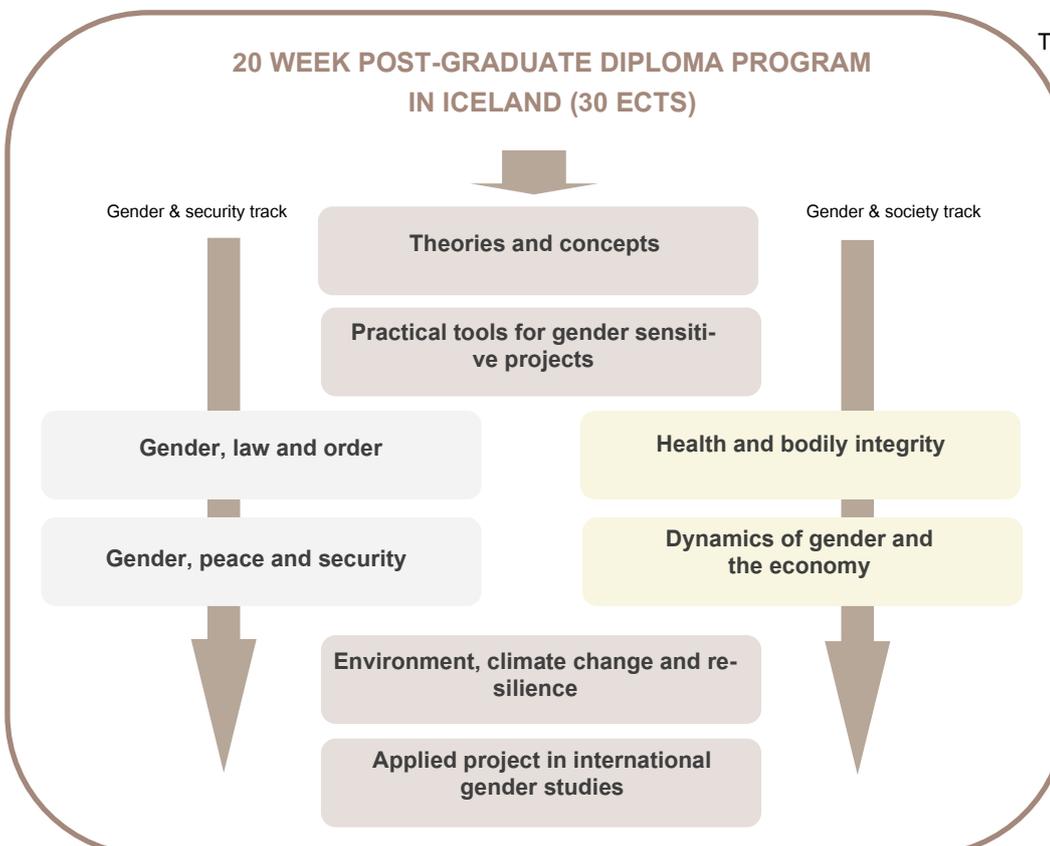


United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (UNU-GEST) was founded in 2009, and became a member of the United Nations University in 2013. The mission of UNU-GEST is to promote gender equality and women's empowerment through education, training and research on problems of relevance to developing and fragile societies.

Scholarships for a 20 week post-graduate diploma programme in Iceland

UNU-GEST, in cooperation with the University of Iceland, conducts an annual 20-week (January–May) postgraduate diploma programme (30 ECTS) in Iceland. The programme focuses 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.



The diploma program consists of two educational tracks: a security track and gender & society track. This allows fellows to concentrate their studies within their area of expertise or interest. The security track is well suited for students who work within the judicial system, law enforcement and all fields of security and social policy, while the gender and society track is suitable for candidates working in a range of fields within public service and NGOs.

Prospective candidates are selected in cooperation with institutions and organisations identified as having a key role in promoting gender equality in the target countries.

Fellows must have **at least one university degree, be under the age 35 years of age and have at least two years experience related to their chosen theme in the UNU-GEST diploma programme.**

Module descriptions:

Module 1: Theories and concepts. The focus is/rests on some of the main concepts used in the UNU-GEST programme and 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 2: Practical tools for gender sensitive projects. This module introduces methods and provides fellows with tools and skills to conduct gender-sensitive analyses of social and cultural conditions, information and policies, and to participate in developing gender-responsive policies. A special emphasis is on management for results, monitoring and evaluation, gender responsive budgeting, and leadership.

Module 3a: Gender, law and order. Theoretical and practical engagements with the law are examined to assess how a feminist perspective contributes to the understanding of legal and social relations and their foundation for public policy. Different aspects of gender and legal rights are examined, including diversity, inequality, land rights, and gender-based violence; as well as the relationship between gender and law in a variety of jurisdictions.

Module 3b: Health and bodily integrity. This module focuses on gender relations and norms, and resulting behaviors, which affect physical and mental health and bodily integrity. The approach explores how gender differences and inequalities result in unequal health status and access to health care. A human rights framework is applied to explore gender-based violence (GBV) and how unequal power relations contribute to GBV with consequent physical, mental and economic consequences.

Module 4a: Gender, peace and security. The aim of the module is 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 4b: Dynamics of gender and the economy. In this module, the gendered roles within the formal and informal economy are explored by applying practical and theoretical frameworks. A special focus is on women's empowerment and capacity building within the context of the market, access to capital, income generation, innovation and entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Module 5: Environment, climate change and resilience. The role of gender in unsustainable/sustainable development, natural resource management and resilience building is explored. The focus rests on gender and climate change and resilience, as well as gender relations in fisheries, energy production and use, agriculture and land management.

Module 6: Applied project. Fellows work on an applied project of their choice throughout the duration of the programme under the supervision of experts. The project is either in an essay form, addressing a specific gender relations problem and identifying strategies and suggestions to counter it or in the form of a project proposal which outlines all the necessary steps and activities needed to solve a problem and

Teaching staff consists of academics, specialists and practitioners, but a number of renowned international lecturers contribute to the UNU-GEST diploma programme each year.

The applied project

The focus of the UNU-GEST diploma programme is geared towards generating sustainable change by fellow's activities in their home countries. Each year, the fellows form an applied project proposal for implementation on an issue related to their work or area of interest or expertise. Some of the projects materialize once the students return to their country of origin but often the fellows are in need of external funding to support their projects. As an example, following projects and essays have been submitted by alumni fellows from Uganda:

- Addressing Sexual Violence against Men in Northern Uganda: Sexual Violence Among Male Youth in Pader District (UNU-GEST 2011)

This project seeks to champion campaigns geared towards reducing sexual violence against male youth (15-20years old) in northern Uganda, through methods such as community dialogues for youth at the grassroots level, training and sensitizations for in-school youths, local language radio programs, and continued networking with youth organizations. This will contribute to the reduction of violence against male youth, influence policies to also focus on male sexual violence and foster change in attitude towards male survivors of sexual violence among communities.

- Maternal health as a sexual and reproductive right: Uganda (UNU-GEST 2014)

Every very year 6,000 women in Uganda die giving birth due to preventable complications, the leading cause of maternal death in young women aged 15-19 years. This project proposes changes to the SRH related legal and policy frameworks in Uganda vis á vis the unequal gender relations deeply rooted in social, cultural and patriarchal patterns where the most oppressed, women, are denied the right to life. An analysis applying a gender perspective and a human rights based approach has demonstrated a need to amend policies and programmes already in place, but also a need to address the roots of oppression buried in gender systems and stereotyping. Furthermore gender discriminatory practices that still prevail through enactment and resourcing need to be addressed and gender responsive laws, policies and programmes implemented. Therefore, the project has two core pillars aiming at generating positive change within two different spheres: 1) laws and policy frameworks for maternal health; and 2) the social roots contributing to gendered oppression and maternal death. **This project was awarded the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Award for outstanding final assignment in 2014.**

- Socio-economic empowerment of women through agroforestry in Lira and Pader districts: Apost-confliction region in North Uganda (UNU-GEST 2014)

The project addressed the gender specific constraints identified within the Farm Income Enhancement and Forest Conservation (FIEFOC) project financed by the government of Uganda and the African Development Fund (ADF), which promoted tree growing on agricultural landscapes. These constraints that adversely affect women's participation in agroforestry include women's limited access to; natural resources, training, financial credit, as well as restricted decision making power. The main objective of the project is to enhance women's participation in agroforestry by 20% in Lira and Pader districts, Northern Uganda, by 2018. The main project interventions include gender analysis, provision of credit to women, community mobilization, awareness raising as well as participatory monitoring and evaluation to promote full participation of men as well as women in agroforestry.

Studying in Iceland

UNU-GEST offices are located at the heart of the University of Iceland campus. The fellows are provided with modern study facilities and have access to printers, photocopiers, and scanners. Working spaces are available for the UNU-GEST diploma fellows adjacent to the UNU-GEST offices, but fellows frequently use the facilities at the University Library. The fellows are provided with key textbooks and the bulk of the academic reading material is made available on the University's intranet. Accommodation is provided for fellows on campus. These are private rooms with shared kitchen and bathroom. UNU-GEST pays the rent for the duration of the programme.

Further information can also be found at the website of the University of Iceland: http://english.hi.is/files/guide_for_international_students.pdf

The study time is from January through May, which means that fellows come to Iceland during the coldest time of the year when the day is the shortest, and leave Iceland when spring is arriving. Fellows go on a number of field visits in relation to their studies as well as longer field trips. Check out some pictures from our field trip with the graduation group of 2015 here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02wD7L0YXxY>

Candidates come from array of different sectors each year, which adds to the diversity and dynamic of group work. Study sessions are very interactive and consist to a large extent on practical exercises and group work. The programme accommodates fellows working in all sectors as gender is cross-disciplinary in nature. Also, students come from different countries, which allows them to learn and share experiences across borders.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the Programme for me?

Yes, if you are a young professional who possess good English skills, then you fulfil the requirements for the Programme. However, 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 group in an enriching learning environment. Your family and work circumstances need to allow for you staying abroad from January through May 2016.

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 scholarships are all-inclusive and cover all travel costs for fellows, housing on campus, clothes allowance and per diem during the five month period, in addition to educational facilities, learning material and lessons.

How do I apply?

Candidates have to be nominated by an institute or organisation in which they are employed by or by an agency sponsoring their studies in Iceland. Direct applications from prospective fellows are not accepted. Once nominated, candidates are offered to submit an application form and other required documentation. Those fulfilling programme requirements will be invited to an interview with UNU-GEST staff. The deadline for organisational nominations for the 2016 academic year in Uganda is **25 May 2015**.

How do I apply my learning in the future?

The focus is very practical and you will acquire diverse and applicable skills, 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 understand gender dynamics in different settings and have more in-depth knowledge of certain issues, such as gender-based violence, the environment, gender-responsive budgeting, security and health.

Experience from an alumni fellow:

“The GEST Programme enhanced my knowledge in the field of gender equality and women’s empowerment. My skills in approaching gender and environmental issues improved and the programme 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.”

