UNU-GEST Invites Nominations for Spring Term 2017

School of Women and Gender Studies at Makerere University and UNU-GEST invite masters students to apply for a joint Erasmus+ and UNU-GEST fellowship to attend the 2017 Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in International Gender Studies at the University of Iceland. The 2017 programme will run from the 9th of January until the 25th of May 2017 in Reykjavik, Iceland.

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

- Be enrolled in a Masters programme at Makerere University
- Have experience related to the themes of the UNU-GEST Programme
- Be a young professional (not above 35 years of age)
- Be able to communicate in English (speak, read and write)

In the past, a number of fellows from different countries have attended the programme, including 16 fellows from Uganda. Students are invited to apply for fellowship and submit to the Dean of School of Women and Gender Studies, Dr. Josephine Ahikire at jahikire@chuss.mak.ac.ug no later than 10 August. Application forms are available at the School of Women and Gender Studies and at the UNU-GEST website. UNU-GEST will make the final selection and interview individual candidates.

Fellowships are all-inclusive and cover travel expenses, campus housing, clothes allowance, visa and per-diem cost during the five month period, in addition to the academic programme. By the end of the programme, students will be awarded a post-graduate diploma in international gender studies.

The study programme (30 ECTS) consists of six modules:

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 Dr. Tracey Jean Boisseau

Module 2 • GENDER AND EDUCATION
The question of how gender is learned and performed in educational institutions is explored. Fellows will analyze policies across educational settings through gender and human rights theories, and will learn how to apply their knowledge in different educational settings. Module assignment is an education project by fellows of their own design • Module leader Dr. Annadís Gréta Rúdolfsdóttir

Module 3 • 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 and Dr. Elisabeth Klatzer

Module 4 • HEALTH, VIOLENCE AND BODILY INTEGRITY
This module focuses on gender relations and norms, and resulting behaviors, 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 (GBV) • Module leader Kristjana Sigurbjörnsdóttir

Module 5 • GENDER, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
The role of gender in unsustainable and 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, and the dynamics of environmental theories in practice • Module leader Dr. Jón Geir Pétursson

Module 6 • APPLIED FINAL 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 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 Dr. Kirk Hoppe

Useful links:
• UNU website
• UNU-GEST newsletter
• Student handbook 2016
• Studying in Iceland
• Pictures from field trip

UNU-GEST is also on Twitter @unugest and on Facebook
Examples of final assignments by alumni fellows

Socio-economic empowerment of women through agroforestry in Lira and Pader districts, Uganda (Hellen Nansikombi, 2014)
The project proposal aims to address the gender gap in agroforestry programs to enhance women’s participation. Increased dependence on natural resources as a primary source of livelihood has led to environmental degradation in Uganda which adversely affects food security, income and livelihoods of local communities. Provision of credit to women, community mobilization, and awareness raising is proposed to promote full participation of men as well as women in agroforestry.

Strengthening GBV Preparedness and Prevention in Refugee Camps, Palestine (Toni Bero, 2015)
A multi-sectoral approach is taken to a multi-sectorial approach 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 organizational capacity and participation of target communities and beneficiaries.

SignWiki Mozambique: Improving Access to Sign Language (Zélia Duda Francisco Dos Santos, 2015)
This project is an effort to counteract the marginalization of the Mozambican deaf people by improving their access to Mozambique Sign Language (MSL). The SignWiki platform contributes towards human development, empowerment and equity for deaf people by strengthening SLs and education through the use of information and communication technologies.

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. The fellows are provided with a laptop for their use during their studies and 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. 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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is the Programme for me?

Yes, if you are a young professional who possess good English skills and have an undergraduate degree, 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 2017.

Who covers the costs?

The funding of the diploma programme is based on scholarships. 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 submit an application to the School of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University. Those candidates selected by the School will be invited to an interview with UNU-GEST admission team, which makes the final selection. Selection will be finalised by 10 September 2017.

How do I apply my learning in the future?

Candidates come from array of different sectors each year, which adds to the diversity and dynamic of group work. The focus is very practical and you will acquire 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 understand gender dynamics in different settings and have more in-depth knowledge of certain issues, such as gender-based violence, education, environment, gender-responsive budgeting, security and health.