

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1. Can I apply with a degree in engineering or natural sciences?

You can apply, but the programme is primarily designed for participants with limited or no background in natural sciences and engineering. It is particularly suited for those with a degree in social sciences, law and humanities. If you already hold a technical water-related degree, a significant part of the content will be known to you and you might not benefit much from the Programme. This will be considered when selecting participants.

Q2. Are there any age limits for applicants?

There are no strict age limits for participants. However, the preferred age range is between 24-40 years. Participants are expected to be at the early stage of their career (no more than 5 years of experience) working on water, environment, and climate-related issues in international domain.

Q3. Will I receive a certificate of participation?

Upon successful completion of the Programme, participants will be awarded IHE certificates indicating the approximate number of hours spent in the Programme.

Q4. Is participating in all online and in-person meetings mandatory to get the certificate?

Participation in all online and in-person meetings is necessary for meeting all IHE criteria for receiving the certificate. Participation and engagement will be traced. For participants who receive a scholarship, participation in all online activities is mandatory for receiving travel sponsorship to the in-person meetings in India and in the Netherlands.

Q5. What if I have an instable Internet connection and poor facilities for online meetings?

Before official start of the Programme, participants will need to confirm that they have access to all necessary facilities to ensure smooth participation in all online events of the Program (stable Internet connection, electricity, computer with working video and audio equipment, etc.).

Q6. What are the requirements for online meetings?

Webinars will take place every second Thursday in the period between 4 February and 5 July 2027. Online participation implies full-time visual and audio availability from the beginning till the end of online events.

Q7. What is the e-platform to be used during the Training?

IHE uses Teams platforms for online meetings. Secured SurfDrive shared folder will be used to access the trainings materials. The access to the SurfDrive folder will be granted for participants upon registration in IHE system, before the start of the Programme.

Q8. What are we going to do during in-person sessions?

The Programme contains two in-person sessions – one on 12-16 April 2027 (not including travel days, 16 April is optional) and the second one on 5-7 July 2027 (not including travel days, 7 July is optional).

On 12-13 April participants will have an interactive training session, group presentations, and interactions with early-career researchers studying transformative water diplomacy. On 14-15 April, the participants will have the opportunity to join the Water and Peace Seminar focusing on water-related heritage. The Seminar is an annual by-invitation-only science-policy dialogue, organized by IHE Delft that brings together scientists, policy makers and practitioners to share experiences and gain more insights into transboundary water cooperation. In 2027 the Water and Peace Seminar will take place in Uzbekistan, in cooperation with the Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia (SIC ICWC). It is expected that participants of the Young Water Diplomats Programme will participate the Water and Peace Seminar, together with other participants of the Seminar (around 60 participants in total). Field trip is planned for 16 April, and it is optional for participation.

At the end of the programme, a concluding two days workshop will take place in Delft, The Netherlands on 5-6 July 2026.

It is expected that all participants travel both to Uzbekistan and to the Netherlands for these parts of the Programme.

Q9. Which kind of letter from employer will I have to provide, if I am selected for funding?

If you were awarded scholarship for participation in the Programme, you must provide confirmation of consent from a direct job supervisor. The letter should clearly indicate the candidate's availability for participation in the full Programme, indicating the following preliminary estimates:

- 16 hours of monthly workload, including preparatory reading, lectures, group works and work on individual assignments
- Travel to Uzbekistan on 12-15 April 2027, excluding the time needed for travel
- Travel to the Netherlands on 5-6 July 2027, excluding the time needed for travel.

Q10. Was the Programme implemented before?

The first edition of the YWD Programme was implemented in 2022 under the DUPC2 Water Diplomacy project. 14 participants selected from more than 400 applications received last year were from Sudan, Kenya, Austria, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Bangladesh, Lesotho, Netherlands and Afghanistan. The YWD program received considerable attention, and was featured, among others, in an article of the UN Academic Impact initiative. Impressions can be found here: [Young Water Diplomats Programme – helping future leaders learn about water](#) and here: [Promoting Youth Leadership in Water Governance](#)

The second edition was implemented in 2023 under the DUPC3 small grants programme. 18 participants were selected for participation: from Germany, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Sudan, Finland, The Netherlands, South Sudan, Italy, Senegal, Bolivia, Kenya, India, Iran. More insights here: [Navigating the currents of change: empowering youth through Young Water Diplomats Programme](#)

The third, fourth, and fifth editions were implemented in 2024, 2025, and 2026 under the project “Cross-regional learning for transformative water diplomacy (CroWD)” funded by the IHE Delft Partnership Programme for Water and Development (DUPC3) of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. You can find more info about the CroWD project [here](#). More insights about these editions of the YWD Programme are here: [Building a Water Secure Future, Young Water Diplomats 2025: A global network of changemakers for a water-secure world](#), [Meet the Young Water Diplomats Class of 2026!](#)

Q11. Which expenses can be covered by the scholarship?

Full scholarship can cover tuition fees, roundtrip air tickets to Uzbekistan and back from closest international airport in April, roundtrip air tickets to Amsterdam and back in July, accommodation, visa application fee, local transportation, and DSA for both trips. Partial scholarships can cover some of these costs, based on a case-by-case consideration.

Q12. Applicants from which countries can apply for scholarship?

Countries listed in this list can apply for full or partial coverage of participation in the Programme: The OECD's latest [DAC list of Official Development Assistance \(ODA\) for recipients](#) eligible for a scholarship.

Q13. Will IHE help with visa application procedure?

Travel to Uzbekistan: Partner of the CroWD project, Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia (SIC ICWC), will issue visa invitation letter which can be used for visa purposes. Checking visa and travel requirements to Uzbekistan, scheduling an appointment at an Embassy/ Consulate and preparing visa application documents are the responsibilities of participants.

Travel to Delft, The Netherlands: IHE Delft will issue an invitation letter to support visa applications. Checking visa and travel requirements to the Netherlands, scheduling an appointment at an Embassy/ Consulate and preparing visa application documents are the responsibilities of participants.

Q14. What are the most important dates for applicants?

30 November – deadline for applications on the IHE portal

Second half of December – all applicants will be notified about the results of the selection process

The Opening of the Programme is planned for Thursday 4 February 2027.