

# OPEN CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

GEST Fellowships Spring Term 2020



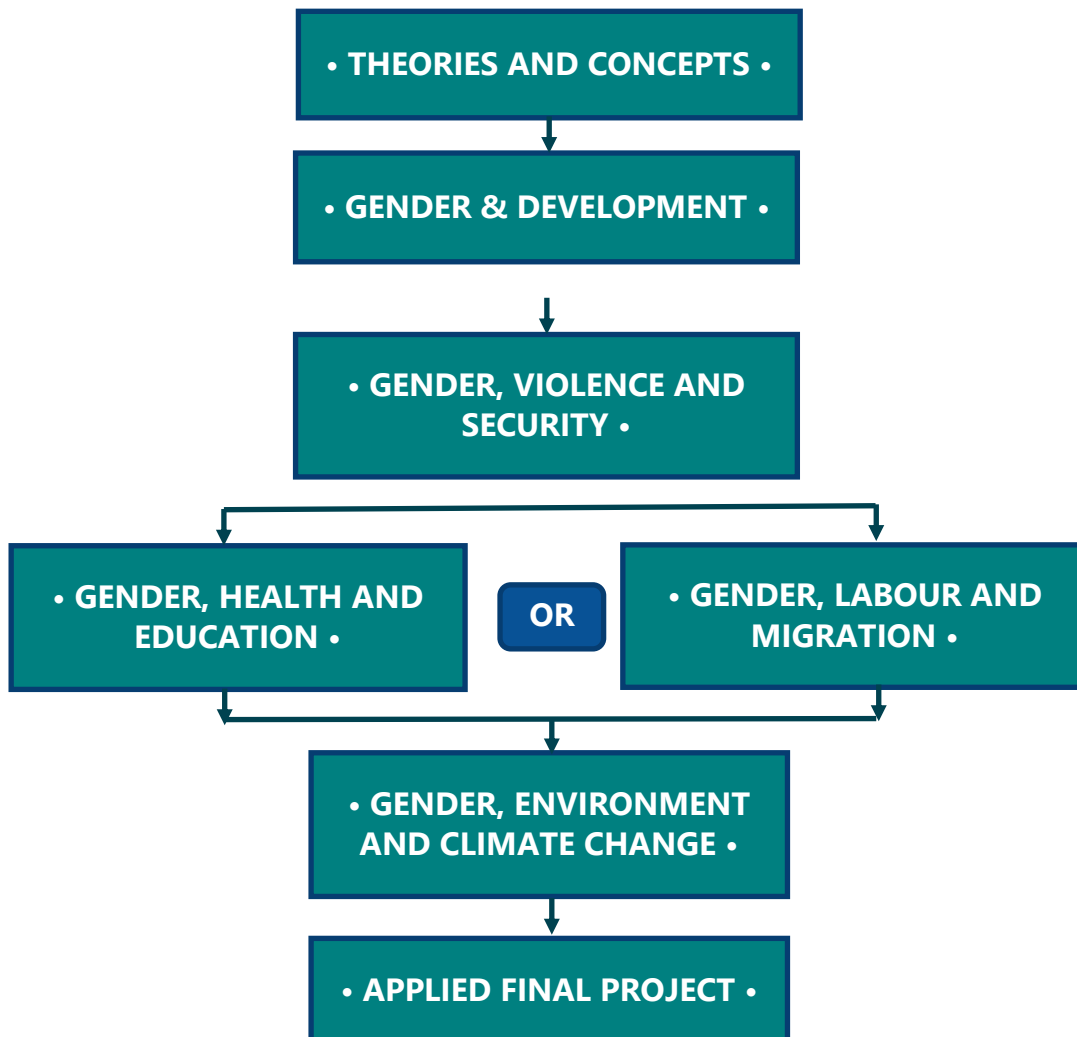
UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

The Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (GEST) welcomes government ministries and agencies, and civil society organisations seeking to advance gender equality, to nominate and encourage promising junior professionals to apply for fellowships in the 2020 Post-Graduate Diploma Programme in International Gender Studies (30 ECTS) at the University of Iceland. The 2020 programme will run from early January until the end of May 2020 in Reykjavik, Iceland. The selection of fellows is based on the following criteria:

The candidate must

- Have at least one university degree
- Have at least 2 years of professional experience relevant to the programme's mission and/or be in a position to lead changes towards gender equality
- Be a junior professional or researcher
- Be fluent in both spoken and written English

[Nominations for fellowships are submitted through the GEST website.](#) Following review, nominees will be asked to submit an individual application. Personal interviews are then conducted with selected candidates. Fellowships cover visa costs, travel expenses, campus housing, and per-diem cost during the five month period, in addition to the cost of the academic programme itself. GEST offers a limited number of fellowships but also invites co-sponsorship from organizations, where full or partial costs for fellows (travel and accommodation) are covered by the nominating organization. Deadline for nominations for scholarships is **30 June 2019**. In the spring semester 2020, the study programme consists of six modules, on two tracks:



## About GEST

The Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (GEST) was founded in 2009 at the University of Iceland. The mission of GEST is to promote gender equality and women's empowerment through education, training and research on issues of relevance to fragile societies and low and middle income countries.

GEST conducts an annual 20-week (January–May) post-graduate 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 and researchers from low and middle income countries and conflict/post-conflict societies working for government ministries and agencies, civil society organisations and educational institutions. Prospective candidates are selected in cooperation with institutions and organisations identified as having key roles in promoting gender equality. To date, 132 fellows from 23 countries have completed the programme.

The teaching staff consists of local and international scholars, specialists and practitioners with diverse experiences and perspectives in the field of gender equality and often internationally renowned for their work.

### Useful links:

- [GEST newsletter](#)
- [Student handbook](#)
- [Studying in Iceland](#)
- [Pictures from field trips](#)



## Alumni experiences:

**Limbani Zakeyo Phiri, 2015 GEST fellow from Malawi**



*"The GEST Programme builds one's confidence in tackling gender issues. The diverse experience shared by fellows and lectures offers very good insights and enriches most discussions. The huge networking opportunities it offers are a platform from which you can easily develop your profession in the gender fields. The programme oozes competency, professionalism and continuous excitement."*

**Masha Durkalić, 2018 GEST fellow from Bosnia and Herzegovina**



*"The UNU-GEST programme develops academic skills, critical thinking and intercultural exchange in an environment dedicated to providing the best possible knowledge. It offers a chance to learn from a variety of lecturers, engage in important discussions and explore issues of relevance through a variety of perspectives. It also provides an invaluable and rare opportunity to specialize in the field of gender equality through a wide and interdisciplinary point of view."*

## How do I apply?

Candidates shall be nominated by an institute or organisation in which they are employed, 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 GEST staff.

## How do I apply my learning in the future?

Candidates come from an array of different sectors each year, which contributes to the diversity of the group and to knowledge sharing. 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 issues such as gender-based violence, education, sustainable development, gender-responsive budgeting, security and health.

If you have any further questions, please check our [website](#) or contact [gest@hi.is](mailto:gest@hi.is)

## Examples of final assignments by alumni fellows

### Strengthening GBV Preparedness and Prevention in Refugee Camps, Palestine (Toni Bero, 2015 )

A multi-sectoral 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.

### Gendered Value Chain Analysis of Mangoes in Malawi (Nthamyo Thandie Mbeye, 2016 )

The project proposal lays the foundation for future investment and interventions in the mango sub-sector and offers a gendered analysis of the mango value chain in Malawi. A variety of gender related issues are identified at each stage of the mango value chain, and strategies to be taken into consideration when improving and upgrading a mango value chain.

### Gender Dynamics of Ageing in Rural Uganda: Meeting Energy, Water Access and Improving of Shelter/Housing Needs (Harriet Achieng, 2018)

An analysis of how aging women in rural Uganda are due to gender-based expectations faced by challenges as the younger people move to the urban areas in look for work. This includes limited access to proper lighting, clean energy for cooking, or housing.

### Confronting Serbia's Past: The Feminist Memory Politics of Women in Black (Luka Lazović, 2018)

The essay explores the intersection of gender and memory politics and Serbia with a focus on the Belgrade-based Women in Black. The analysis includes forms of their mnemonic mobilization as part of their efforts to offer counter-narratives to state-sponsored memory projects designed to uphold continuity between the present and the past.



## Studying in Iceland

The 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. Fellows who require a laptop are provided with one for their use during their studies, and academic reading material is made available on the University's intranet. Accommodation is offered on campus, in private rooms with shared kitchens and bathrooms. 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 for longer field trips.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Is the Programme for me?

Yes, if you are a junior professional and a gender equality advocate, with very good command of English and an undergraduate degree, then you fulfil the requirements for the Programme. However, you also need to be passionate about becoming a leader for change, and willing to positively contribute to a dynamic group in an enriching learning environment. Your life and work arrangements need to allow for you to stay abroad from January through May 2020.

## Who covers the costs?

The funding of the diploma programme is based on scholarships that are funded either: 1) directly, by the GEST programme or 2) supported 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, and per-diem during the five month period, in addition to educational facilities and lessons.