

IOC Circular Letter No 2986
(English only)

IOC/ VR/JB/el
23 February 2024

To : IOC Member States (Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC)
Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States

C.c. : The Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

Subject: Nippon Foundation / GEBCO (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans) Training Program Year 21 (2024–2025)

Under the joint auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, GEBCO's aim is to provide the most authoritative publicly available bathymetry of the world ocean. As part of this centennial project, GEBCO has been funded by the Nippon Foundation to train a new generation of scientists and hydrographers in ocean bathymetry through a 12-month course, leading to the 'Postgraduate Certificate in Ocean bathymetry' (PCOB) at the University of New Hampshire (USA).

By this letter, I am pleased to advise that nominations are being sought for the 21st class of the IOC-IHO-Nippon Foundation / GEBCO Training Program that will begin in late August 2024. Funding for this training programme is currently awaiting confirmation from the Nippon Foundation at the end of March.

Students will follow an intensive 12-month training course including lectures, practical laboratory work and projects on the water, secondments to relevant laboratories and cruises on research or survey ships. In addition to the university teaching staff, other experts will be involved in giving specialized lectures.

The course curriculum covers integrated seabed mapping systems and the fundamentals of ocean mapping, acoustics, positioning, survey design, uncertainty management, geological and physical oceanography, seafloor characteristics, ocean basins structure, data analysis and integration, and surface interpolation. Students can also chose additional courses from a range of electives.

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The language of instruction is English, and candidates must demonstrate capability to undertake graduate level instruction in English to the satisfaction of the University of New Hampshire. Candidates must be aware that this is an intensive course, even for students whose first language is English.

The minimum standard for admission is a relevant four-year degree in a related field.

A description of the course, eligibility for entry, financial details, schedule, course content, contact information and a downloadable preliminary application form are available at: <https://www.gebco.net/training/>.

Applications should be sent directly to the Course Director (nfg_project_manager@com.unh.edu) by 15 April 2024.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary