UNU-GEST
GENDER EQUALITY STUDIES AND TRAINING PROGRAMME
www.gest.unu.edu
Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme

The United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (UNU-GEST) promotes gender equality and social change through research and education. The mission of UNU-GEST is to apply multidisciplinary approaches through:

*High-quality, collaborative, and policy relevant research*

*Capacity building of professionals, scholars, and organizations*

*Creating a platform for transnational dialogue, knowledge production, and exchange*

UNU-GEST Post-Graduate Diploma Programme

The UNU-GEST offers a 30 ECTS postgraduate diploma programme hosted by the University of Iceland. Studies commence in early January and end in late May each year. The programme’s curriculum consists of six teaching modules taught by leading international experts, and focuses on critical contemporary theory, intellectual debates, incorporating major interdisciplinary agendas, and the latest methodological practices. The UNU-GEST diploma programme targets professionals from developing countries and post-conflict societies working for government ministries and agencies, civil society organizations, and educational institutes.

Studying in Iceland

The UNU-GEST is located at the heart of the University of Iceland campus. The University of Iceland is a progressive educational and scientific institution, renowned in the global scientific community for its research. It is a state university, situated in the centre of Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland. A modern, diversified and rapidly developing institution, the University of Iceland offers opportunities for study and research. UNU-GEST postgraduate fellows have access to first-rate study facilities, the university library, and are offered accommodation on campus.

Rosália Pedro
2011 UNU-GEST alumni from Mozambique

“The UNU-GEST Programme enhanced my knowledge in the field of gender equality and women’s empowerment. The programme improved my skills in approaching gender and 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.”
UNU-GEST’s strategic research programme is based on three interrelated and interdisciplinary research areas, addressing gender equality and social justice at its core: I Sustainability; II Human security; and III Societal transitions.

UNU-GEST fosters close collaboration with academic institutions and researchers in developing countries. One of the objectives of the research programme is to build research and teaching capacity within partner academic institutions in developing countries, and influence policy making in the field of gender equality. Applied and policy-oriented research is emphasized and the publication strategy targets respected and influential academic venues. The UNU-GEST research programme is conducted in partnership with EDDA Research Center at the University of Iceland.
Modules

The post-graduate diploma programme (30 ECTS) consists of six modules. For each academic year, different educational tracks may be offered. The following are a selection of the modules that have been taught in the past (modules offered may vary between years):

» INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL GENDER STUDIES: THEORIES AND CONCEPTS (mandatory module)

The focus rests on the main concepts used in gender equality discourse. Theoretical and critical frameworks are analysed and discussed, and issues relating to gender equality and minority groups are explored from a historical perspective and in a human rights context. Diverse issues concerning religion, sexuality, and ethnicity are also explored.

» GENDER AND EDUCATION

In this module different approaches to the question of how gender is learned and performed within educational institutions is explored. The theoretical framework draws on feminist scholarship and critical education theory with an emphasis on intersectionality and social justice. Educational policies and curricula are analysed and placed in a human rights context. Special emphasis is placed on how this knowledge can be applied in a broad range of educational settings. Throughout the module, students work towards a final project to be submitted at the end of the module.

» PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR GENDER SENSITIVE PROJECTS

This module introduces methods that provide fellows with tools and skills to conduct gender-sensitive analysis of social and cultural conditions, information, and policies. A special emphasis is placed on project management, performance management, monitoring and evaluation, gender responsive budgeting, gender mainstreaming, and leadership.

» DYNAMICS OF GENDER AND THE ECONOMY

In this module, gendered roles within formal and informal economies are explored by applying practical and theoretical frameworks. A special focus is placed on women’s empowerment and capacity building within the context of the market, access to capital, income generation, innovation, and entrepreneurship in developing countries.

» HEALTH, VIOLENCE, AND BODILY INTEGRITY

This module focuses on how gender relations, norms, and resulting behaviour, affect physical and mental health. Diverse topics and issues (e.g. gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health) are investigated, and tools and methods for policy interventions examined in order to facilitate understanding and knowledge of how gender differences and inequalities can result in unequal health status, and inequitable access to, and use of, health care.

» 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.

» GENDER, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The role of gender in sustainable and unsustainable development, natural resource management, and resilience building, is explored. The module focuses on gender and climate change, gender relations in fisheries sectors, energy production and use, agriculture, land management, and how environmental theories operate in practice.

» APPLIED FINAL PROJECT (mandatory module)

Fellows work on an applied project of their choice throughout the programme under the supervision of experts. The project is either an essay, addressing a specific gender related problem and identifying strategies to counter it, or a project proposal which outlines necessary steps and activities to solve a problem and implement a project.

Limbani Zakeyo Phiri
2015 UNU-GEST alumni from Malawi

“The UNU-GEST Programme builds one’s confidence in tackling gender issues. The diverse experience shared by fellows and lecturers offers very good insights and enriches 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 offers continuous excitement.”
Masters and PhD Programmes

UNU-GEST offers fellowships for postgraduate studies at the University of Iceland to candidates from developing and conflict/post-conflict countries.

The grants are awarded on a competitive basis to students who have accomplished exemplary academic achievement in their undergraduate studies; wish to pursue research within the thematic areas of the UNU-GEST research programme; and propose a thesis of relevance for gender equality in the recipient’s country. The UNU-GEST Post-graduate Diploma in International Gender Equality Studies counts 30 ECTS towards the postgraduate degree, which is equivalent to one semester.

Short Courses and Training

UNU-GEST offers short courses and training for capacity building in developing countries, funded by development partners and participants. Training offered, and dates, are announced at the UNU-GEST website. They include:

**Gender and Climate Change**
Gender is an integral and instrumental factor in disaster prevention, risk management, and climate change adaptation. Participants are provided with a comprehensive and applied link between gender and climate change and tools to advance gender responsive policy and practice when addressing the various challenges of climate change at the local level.

**Gender Responsive Budgeting**
Budgets are powerful tools for transformation to move society towards gender equality. Gender responsive budgeting contributes to the advancement of gender equality and the fulfilment of women’s rights. It entails identifying and reflecting on needed interventions to address gender gaps within sectors and local government policies, plans and budgets.

**Institutional Capacity Building**
Institutions require sufficient capacity to effectively form and implement gender-responsive processes, programmes and policies. Training is geared towards core staff, offering analytical and practical tools.

**Gender-Based Violence, Justice, and the Law**
Gender-based violence (GBV) reflects and reinforces inequalities between men and women. The aim of this course is to identify and address opportunities and challenges for pursuing formal and alternative justice for victims of gender-based violence, applying a socio-legal approach. It focuses on both judicial and non-judicial measures to address gender injustices.

**Women’s Entrepreneurship Training**
Women face various gender-based barriers for entry into formal markets. Women own and manage fewer businesses than men, and have less access to capital. This professional training equips female entrepreneurs with some of the necessary tools and resources for success.