The United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (UNU-GEST) promotes gender equality and social justice in developing countries and conflict/post-conflict societies with research and education. Multidisciplinary approaches are applied through:

- High-quality, collaborative, and policy-relevant research
- Capacity building of professionals, scholars and organizations
- Creating a platform for transnational dialogue and exchange

UNU-GEST offers short courses and training for capacity building in developing countries, funded by development partners. Following short courses are tailored to the needs of recipients:

**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 fulfillment of women’s rights. It entails identifying and reflecting needed interventions to address gender gaps in sector 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 gender-based violence, applying a social legal approach. The focus rests on the set of judicial and non-judicial measures to address gender justice.

**Women’s Entrepreneurship Training**
Women face various gender-based barriers for entry in the formal market, own and manage fewer businesses than men, and have less access to finance. Professional training equips female entrepreneurs with the necessary tools and resources.

UNU-GEST fosters close collaboration with academic institutions and researchers in developing countries. One of the aims 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. 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-Center of Excellence at the University of Iceland.
The UNU-GEST diploma is a 30 ECTS postgraduate 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 experts and focuses on critical contemporary theory, incorporating major interdisciplinary agenda, intellectual debates and recent methodological practices. The target group for the UNU-GEST diploma program consists of professionals from developing countries and post-conflict societies working for government ministries and agencies, civil society organizations and educational institutes. For the 2016 academic year, two educational tracks are offered: gender and security, and gender and society. Students select two of four elective modules.

Masters and PhD Programmes
UNU-GEST offers scholarships for postgraduate studies at University of Iceland to suitable candidates from developing and conflict/post-conflict countries. The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis to students who have achieved 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 programmes, which is equivalent to one semester.

Module 1: Theories and concepts. The focus rests on some of the main concepts used in the UNU-GEST programme and 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 2: Practical tools for gender sensitive projects. This module introduces methods and provides fellows with tools and skills to conduct gender-sensitive analyses of social and cultural conditions, information and policies, and to participate in developing gender-responsive policies. A special emphasis is on management for results, monitoring and evaluation, gender responsive budgeting, and leadership.

Module 3a: Gender, law and order. Theoretical and practical engagements with the law are examined to assess how a feminist perspective contributes to the understanding of legal and social relations and their foundation for public policy. Different aspects of gender and legal rights are examined, including diversity, inequality, land rights, and gender-based violence; as well as the relationship between gender and law in a variety of jurisdictions.

Module 3b: Health and bodily integrity. This module focuses on gender relations and norms, and resulting behaviors, which affect physical and mental health and bodily integrity. The approach explores how gender differences and inequalities result in unequal health status and access to health care. A human rights framework is applied to explore gender-based violence (GBV) and how unequal power relations contribute to GBV with consequent physical, mental and economic consequences.

Module 4a: 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.

Module 4b: Dynamics of gender and the economy. In this module, the gendered roles within the formal and informal economy are explored by applying practical and theoretical frameworks. A special focus is on women’s empowerment and capacity building within the context of the market, access to capital, income generation, innovation and entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Module 5: Environment, climate change and resilience. The role of gender in unsustainable/sustainable development, natural resource management and resilience building is explored. The focus rests on gender and climate change and resilience, as well as gender relations in fisheries, energy production and use, agriculture and land management.

Module 6: Applied 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 and suggestions to counter it or in the form of a project proposal which outlines all the necessary steps and activities needed to solve a problem and implement a project.