



UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water Education

The **UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education** offers graduate education in Delft, The Netherlands, and carries out research and capacity building projects all over the world. The mission of UNESCO-IHE is to contribute to the education and training of professionals and to build the capacity of sector organizations, knowledge centres and other institutions active in the fields of water, the environment and infrastructure in developing countries and countries in transition.

UNESCO-IHE has a permanent staff of 180, of which 90 are scientific staff, while about 250 guest-lecturers from academia and industry contribute to the educational programme. Each year 750 participants (incl. about 200 new MSc students per year) from all over the world attend the various regular and short courses at UNESCO-IHE. The institute has an international staff & student community with English as working language.

VIA Water is a programme on water innovations in African cities. It develops and funds 60 innovative projects touching twelve different pressing needs in the water sector in cities in Benin, Mali, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda and South-Sudan. With VIA Water, a new experimental approach has been chosen to create impact on the ground in finding solutions to *urban* water needs. The programme is financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in the framework of their policy on knowledge platforms) and UNESCO-IHE hosts the programme. VIA Water intends to recruit a:

Postdoctoral Researcher (m/f) 1 FTE

This position will help VIA Water (in cooperation with UNESCO-IHE and the Centre for Frugal Innovation in Africa (CFIA)) to validate its processes, and explore and analyse how and under which conditions the VIA Water programme projects and their respective products, services and systems contribute to the fostering of innovations in the water sector.

The major aim of the research is to study and define key factors of success and failure for (social) water innovations in African countries. Special attention should be paid on the character of the change agents, main applicants and the partnerships. The developed insights will allow for better informed and empirically grounded decisions in policy making (both in Africa and in the Netherlands), and guide investment and project management in the water sector in Africa.

We offer a dynamic and challenging position in an international environment. The postdoctoral researcher will be embedded in a network of other post-doc researchers working on research projects within CFIA and within UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education. Academic guidance is provided through CFIA (Prof. Dr. Peter Knorringa and Dr. André Leliveld) and UNESCO-IHE (Dr. Uta Wehn). The postdoctoral researcher will have the unique opportunity to carry out action research on water innovation interventions.

Responsibilities

- Design a suitable theoretical framework and select appropriate methodologies for an Action Learning Approach of the VIA Water programme
- Undertake data collection in selected VIA Water project locations in Africa and guide junior researchers and MSc students as contributors to the overall study, as applicable
- Lead the cross-case analysis of selected VIA Water projects and formulate concrete recommendations for a range of relevant stakeholders
- Articulate and disseminate intermediate and final insights for specific stakeholders and target groups through workshops and at (inter)national conferences

- Set up and collaborate closely in a Community of Practice of engineers, ethicists and business model specialists focused on innovation research and the evaluation of knowledge platforms to enrich each other's work
- Contribute to project-related funding opportunities and acquisitions

Requirements

- PhD in a relevant social science discipline, e.g. innovation studies, sociology, psychology or political science with demonstrable training in qualitative and quantitative research skills and with excellent grades
- Experience or affiliation with research in (social) innovation studies, especially in the water sector, ideally supported by relevant publications
- Experience with Action Research and Action Learning
- Motivated to do high quality scientific research
- Ability to combine creative and analytical thinking;
- Experience with working in an international environment, especially in Africa; candidates from African countries are particularly encouraged to apply;
- Excellent interpersonal skills within a multi-national and multi-cultural context; and ability to deal with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Excellent written and spoken command of English; French and/or Dutch language skills are an advantage
- Team spirit and flexible;

Terms of employment

This position is a 2 year contract. The position is based in Delft, The Netherlands. A competitive salary (grade 10-11) is offered depending on qualifications and experience in accordance with the conditions of employment for Dutch Universities. The appointment implies entry into the Netherlands' Civil Service Pension Fund (ABP). Candidates must be prepared to carry out short-term missions abroad.

Information and application

Applications (in English) should respond specifically to the requirements, and can be sent until **07.10.2016** including curriculum vitae, motivation letter and the names and contact details of two contactable referees (*all together as one PDF file with your family name as the filename*), to UNESCO-IHE, attn. Human Resource Management (E: vacancies@unesco-ihe.org), PO Box 3015, 2601 DA Delft, The Netherlands, stating vacancy-number **16-RE-02**. For more information you can contact Willemijn Nagel, Programme coordinator and Knowledge manager (w.nagel@viawater.nl) or look at VIA Water website (click on this [link](#)). The nominated candidates will be invited for an interview (through Skype) at **24.10.2016**.

Reactions from staffing agencies and other 3rd parties are not appreciated.