

## Professor of Water Services Governance

38 hours per week (of which 7,6 hours a week are spend at UvA)

### University of Amsterdam

The professor by special appointment is placed within



UNIVERSITEIT  
VAN AMSTERDAM

the Department of Human Geography, Planning and International Development Studies of the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences of the University of Amsterdam. As a researcher, the chairholder becomes a member of the Amsterdam Institute of Social Science Research (AISSR). The department as well as the research institute belong to the international scientific top of geography and planning, international development studies and the social sciences. As a member of the scientific staff, the chairholder benefits from all the conditions – inspiring colleagues, support in the acquisition and organisation of research, various forums for scientific debate – offered by the department, the research institute and the faculty.

The Department of Human Geography, Planning and International Development Studies (GPIO) of the University of Amsterdam, in collaboration with IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, is looking for a professor by special appointment of Water Services Governance. Within the thematic context of the chair, the chairholder has the freedom to develop her research focus.

The University of Amsterdam is the largest university in the Netherlands, with the broadest spectrum of degree programmes. It is an intellectual hub with 39,000 students, 6,000 employees and 3,000 doctoral students who are all committed to a culture of inquiring minds.

An inspiring work environment with various duties and ample scope for individual initiative and development within an inspiring organisation. The Faculty of [social and behavioral sciences](#) play a leading role in addressing the major societal challenges faced by the world, the Netherlands and Amsterdam, now and in the future.

### IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

<https://www.un-ihe.org/>, the world's largest international graduate water education facility, works to strengthen water sector capacity to contribute to a world free of poverty and injustice, in which people manage their water and environmental resources sustainably and equitably.

**IHE**   
**DELFT**

Institute for  
Water Education  
under the auspices  
of UNESCO

More than 120 of IHE Delft's 200 staff members are academics from all over the world. About 250 guest lecturers from global academia and industry contribute to the Institute's educational programmes. Each year, 750 international professionals, including about 200 MSc students, attend courses at IHE Delft. Our working language is English, and we promote a healthy work-life balance through measures that include support to staff who want to work part of their time from home.

IHE Delft is a unique knowledge institute in the Dutch research and educational landscape that combines excellence in education and research with work to advance global sustainable development. Partnerships are integral to achieving this mission: The Institute works closely with universities, government agencies, NGOs, and private sector institutions in the Netherlands and around the world. Through research, education and institutional strengthening, Institute staff make a tangible contribution towards all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in which water is key.

The [Water Governance department](#) of IHE Delft Institute for Water Education focuses on achieving lasting transformations towards equitable, sustainable and peaceful ways of protecting, using, sharing, managing and interacting with water and water-based ecosystems. Water services governance plays a key role in the work of the Water Governance department, including research educational programmes, capacity development activities and advisory work.

IHE Delft and the University of Amsterdam, intend to recruit a:

## **Professor of Water Services Governance**

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#### **Responsibilities**

Water services governance is an important element of sustainably governing water and improving people's and communities' lives and livelihoods. Providing secure access to water is quintessential in achieving the human right to water and contributing to SDG 6 (target 6.1). Yet, the organisation and provision of water services is challenging, especially when resources and capacity are limited. Regulatory and political pressures, demographic changes and biophysical stress place diverse and, at times, conflicting demands on the organisations responsible for delivering water services. Water utilities for instance are under pressure to be financially and economically viable –by adhering to principles of cost-recovery – and have to abide by environmental norms. The proposed professorship further cements the relationship under the MOU between the University of Amsterdam and the IHE Institute for Water Education.

The new professor will engage in questions pertaining to water services governance. The professor will focus on the effectiveness of policy, financial and legal instruments and organisational arrangements in guiding or shaping the behaviour of (groups of) people - bureaucrats/civil servants at either corporate or individual level, or companies, industries, farmers, urban residents, etc. – towards desired water service delivery outcomes. The professor is expected to bring and further expand this expertise, with a comprehensive focus on the Global South. Additionally, the professor is also expected to advance teaching ambitions at the UvA and IHE.

The professorship is located at the UVA/GPIO/GID but management, project acquisition, research and teaching activities will primarily be carried out at IHE Delft. However, we hope to be able to leverage synergies between the two institutions through joint research and teaching activities.

#### **Responsibilities specifically at the University of Amsterdam (0.2 FTE/7.6 h per week)**

The professorship fits into the ongoing work of the Programme Group on Inclusive Development which has three research lines: Governance for environmental justice in the Anthropocene, Governance for social justice, and the Politics of knowledge. Within environmental justice, we have a team focusing on climate change, water, land and food governance, and oceans. Within our water team, we focus on rural water governance, global water governance, but we miss expertise on the issue of water services (i.e. the provision of water and sanitation services). Given the problem of lack of access to water and sanitation services in the global South in particular, given the growing institutional development of WASH (Water, sanitation and hygiene) policy at global level, and the relation between such access and social justice as well as the politics of knowledge, this professorship will address this particular gap.

The work within the University of Amsterdam focuses on the Governance and Inclusive Development programme group and the [Department of Human Geography, Planning and International Development Studies](#) at the [Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences](#). In addition, the chairholder is expected to collaborate with researchers in international development studies, for instance, through co-authoring publications and supervising junior researchers. Furthermore, a contribution to teaching in international development studies is expected in the form of lectures and tutorials (potentially varying from BSc to PhD level). Tasks include:

- Conducting scientific research in the field of water services governance in dialogue with research carried out within the Amsterdam Institute of Social Science Research (AISSR) of the University of Amsterdam;
- Initiating and coordinating research projects within the thematic context of the chair;
- Initiating and supervising PhD research;
- Academic teaching concerning the particular expertise in the field of the chair and the candidate's broader experience;
- Building and maintaining an (inter)national network and participation in (inter)national projects;
- Promoting close relationships with others within the UVA and with the government, private sector, NGOs, and others;
- Sharing knowledge about topics relevant to the chair with a broad audience.

## **Responsibilities specifically at IHE Delft (0.8 FTE/30.4 h per week)**

Since water and environmental issues are so critical for the development of countries, especially in the Global South, the Governance and Inclusive Development programme group (GID) at GPIO, the chair strengthens its environment and development profile. The Professor on Water Services Governance will complement the existing Water Governance work on multi-level water governance undertaken by the other professors and the ongoing work on agriculture and food security. Water services focus on the supply of drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services to people worldwide and are captured under the acronym of WASH. It examines how such water is delivered, which actors play a role, and the modalities of delivery, including the principles underlying that – such as cost-recovery. It generally focuses more on urban and peri-urban areas. The Water Governance work in the GID group focuses on blue water governance (surface and groundwater), especially irrigation-related issues, and generally in rural matters. Both aspects are critical for two separate discussions – one on access to water and sanitation services and the other on water concerning agri-food issues. This complements existing work at GID on earth system boundaries, social and ecological justice, and the politics of knowledge.

The professor primarily connects to two of the five themes identified in IHE Delft Water Governance Department's Research Strategy: "Water and Urbanization" and "Water Organisations and Policies". Research and education under this professorship will be situated in the interrelated societal and ecological challenges and opportunities related to urban expansion. The professor will focus on the effectiveness of policy, financial and legal instruments and organisational arrangements in guiding or shaping the behavior of (groups of) people - bureaucrats/civil servants at either corporate or individual level, or companies, industries, farmers, urban residents, etc. - towards desired water service delivery outcomes. This topic is highly relevant to IHE's partners, notably including water utilities in the Netherlands and beyond, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNESCO, and the entire UNESCO Water Family.

Tasks include:

- Teaching: The professor will primarily engage significantly in IHE teaching, in particular IHE's new MSc programme. In addition, the professor may contribute to the teaching programme on development studies (the one-year Master IDS, the two-year Research Master IDS or the Minor IDS (advanced bachelor level courses) and to the teaching programme in the Bachelor and Master programme of Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning, and other programme in the College of Social Sciences and the Graduate School of Social Sciences within the University including the Advanced Environmental Geography Master's. Tasks will include MSc thesis supervision at the IHE and the UVA including providing 'locations' for such Masters' theses fieldwork
- Research: The professor will be committed to the concepts of governance and inclusive development in the context of water services governance. The professor will develop ambitious research projects, and seek funding for these, in order to ensure the financial viability of the programme. The professor will undertake and accomplish research in the field of water services governance, publish in international refereed journals, and produce edited volumes and monographs published by international academic publishers. He/she is expected to take an active role in supervising PhDs and in the acquisition of external funding for research (including PhD research).
- Management: The professor is expected to contribute to the management of the department as well as the overall institute at IHE Delft, which includes the research group and the teaching programme, and has to be prepared to take on such tasks as might be required in this context.
- Societal responsibilities: The professor has a responsibility to participate in the wider societal debates, connecting academic research to development policy and practice and thus furthering academic, policy and general discourses on water services governance and its role in sustainable development.

## **Requirements**

The candidate has:

- A PhD in a relevant field for Water Service Governance. If the candidate doesn't have a degree in the social sciences, she/he has developed a proven affinity for the social sciences.
- The ability to teach at an academic level, backed in part by the professor's expertise in the field of the Special Chair.
- National and/or international standing in the relevant professional field.
- The ability to foster links and interactions between current UvA programmes and research and external parties (in the government, in the business community and in other sectors of society).

- At least 10 years of experience in water services governance, combining a background in water governance and its theories and approaches and a background in water services administration and management
- Proven experience in mixed methods, combining quantitative, qualitative, and spatial analysis. In particular, we are looking for a professor who is skilled in qualitative methods and interdisciplinary research.
- Excellent knowledge specifically with regards to water services providers (both formal and informal), including functioning, management, governance, funding, etc. aspects of water services providers
- Comprehensive publication record (including proven track record in peer-reviewed journals) in fields relating to water services governance, combined with policy-oriented publications
- A clear vision of the future development of the field of water services and the ambition to develop the field in an innovative manner
- Comprehensive interdisciplinary standing and experience, combining different social science disciplines (and beyond), including a strong interest in promoting interdisciplinary research and engaging with scholars and practitioners from different disciplines
- Research experience in the Global South, mainly also focusing on water services provision in low-income countries and areas
- Proven teaching experience and an excellent track record in supervising students at different levels and from different backgrounds
- Proven experience in project management (strategic planning, financial management, reporting and implementation) and project acquisition (both research and policy)
- Experience in the development and delivery of trainings and other capacity development activities, including for the Global South
- Proven leadership skills and management qualities, including the ability to guide and inspire staff of all backgrounds
- Familiarity with the Dutch university system and strong networks with both relevant Dutch and international policy and academic partners

### Terms of Employment

The candidate will be employed by IHE Delft Institute for Water Education for 38 hours (1.0 FTE) and will be seconded to the University of Amsterdam for one day a week. The candidate is appointed for a period of five years, with the possibility of a five-year extension.

The candidate will be stationed in Delft, the Netherlands, and work in Amsterdam one day a week. The position is in accordance with scale H2 of the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities.

IHE Delft offers an attractive, multiple-choice employee benefits scheme, year-end bonus and generous pension scheme. The appointment implies entry into the Netherlands' Civil Service Pension Fund (ABP). We also offer 31 days' leave based on 38 hours working week.

### Information and application

For more information about these positions please contact:

UvA: Dr. Jochem de Vries, Department Chair Human Geography, Planning and International Development Studies, [j.devries1@uva.nl](mailto:j.devries1@uva.nl),

IHE Delft: Dr. Susanne Schmeier, Head Water Governance Department [s.schmeier@un-ihe.org](mailto:s.schmeier@un-ihe.org)

UvA and IHE Delft follow an open procedure of recruitment, which respects diversity and provides equal opportunity to applicants of all backgrounds.

Applications should be in English, and respond specifically to the requirements. The application, including curriculum vitae, motivation letter, statement of teaching, research interests and experiences and the names and contact details of two contactable referees, should be sent to IHE Delft, attn. Human Resource Management (E: [recruitment@un-ihe.org](mailto:recruitment@un-ihe.org)), **stating vacancy-number 23-WG-01 by 28 May 2023** (the application should be in one PDF file with your family name as the filename). Shortlisted applicants will be notified by late May 2022. The likely dates of interviews for the shortlisted applicants are in the first half of June 2023.

*Acquisition by staffing agencies and other 3<sup>rd</sup> parties is not appreciated.*

*By submitting your application for this vacancy, you agree with the privacy statement below:*

*The personal data you share through your application file and other means will only be used by IHE Delft for the purpose of the recruitment and selection process in order to evaluate your suitability for the vacancy for which you have applied, as well as for communication purposes related to the vacancy. IHE Delft will process your personal details in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation of 25 May 2018. For more information we refer you to the privacy statement of IHE Delft: <https://www.un-ihe.org/privacy-statement>*

*Without your prior consent or other legal basis, no information will be shared with third parties.*