

THE UNESCO-VOCATIONS PATRIMOINE FELLOWSHIPS FOR WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS

2008 APPLICATION GUIDE

Introduction

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding universal value to humanity. This is embodied in the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, adopted by UNESCO in 1972.

Cultural heritage refers to monuments, groups of building and properties with historical, aesthetic, archaeological, scientific, ethnological or anthropological value. Natural heritage refers to outstanding physical, biological and geological formations, habitats of threatened species of animals and plants and areas with scientific, conservation or aesthetic value.

As of July 2007, there are 851 properties on the World Heritage List. But inscription on the List is only the first stage in an on-going process of conservation. Many of these properties face a variety of threats. Their preservation requires exemplary management in order to preserve them for existing and future generations.

The Programme

The *UNESCO-VOCATIONS PATRIMOINE Fellowships for World Heritage Site Managers Programme* aims to reinforce the capacity of professionals currently working or intending to work in the near future, in the management, conservation and development of a World Heritage property. It is an important tool in UNESCO's efforts to conserve and promote the outstanding universal value that justified the properties' inscription on the World Heritage List. Launched in January 2006, the Fellowships are made possible as a result of an innovative public-private partnership between UNESCO and its World Heritage Centre and a French non-governmental organization, Association Vocations Patrimoine, with the support of the multinational groups AXA and MAZARS. The Programme supports the World Heritage Committee's Capacity Building objectives

by providing Fellowships for up to two years to facilitate access to Master's level training in World Heritage studies.

At present, the Fellowships are only offered in connection with the Master of Arts in World Heritage Studies at Brandenburg Technical University, Cottbus, Germany (<http://www.tu-cottbus.de/whs>), and with the Master of Science in World Heritage Management at University College Dublin, Ireland (<http://www.ucd.ie/cpe>). Applicants should therefore either be in receipt of an offer of a place or in the process of applying to one of these courses.

It is anticipated that other Universities will participate in the programme in the near future.

In addition to proven academic excellence and proof of their ability to work in English, candidates will be required to submit an innovative proposal for research on a management issue at a World Heritage property to be carried out as part of the Fellowship. These proposals should explicitly support the objectives and priorities of the World Heritage Committee in the field of World Heritage management. Special attention will be given to candidates who wish to focus their research on issues related to the management of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, or to issues related to managing the effects of climate change, or tourism at World Heritage properties. Candidates need not restrict themselves to studying properties in their own country, although they should ensure that they are able to work in the language of the country where they propose to undertake research. The Committee's Decisions in respect of individual World Heritage properties and policy discussions relating to tourism and climate change can be found on <http://whc.unesco.org>.

To the extent possible, a balanced geographical representation will be ensured, with fellowships being awarded to the extent possible in each of the 5 geo-cultural regions of UNESCO (i.e. Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean). In addition to academic excellence and the quality of the research proposal, priority will be given to applicants from low income and lower middle income countries and to professionals already working at a World Heritage property.

What do the Fellowships cover?

The Fellowships cover: tuition fees, one round trip air ticket between the Fellow's home and the university plus one round trip air ticket to the World Heritage property where the field work will take place, and a monthly stipend of Euro 1300 to cover living expenses (accommodation, food, books, local transport and other out of pocket expenses); and mandatory health insurance. Applicants should note that no provision to finance or lodge family members or other dependents can be made, nor can UNESCO cover any maintenance, insurance or travel expenses for persons accompanying awardees. UNESCO will also provide support to the Fellows by facilitating access to research material held at the World Heritage Centre and to the properties.

The programme operates as follows:

- Candidates submit their application to the official national liaison body for UNESCO of the country of which they are a citizen (usually the National Commission for UNESCO). For the 2008 programme, they should simultaneously be in receipt of an offer from or be applying for a place at the Master of Arts in World Heritage Studies at BTU Cottbus, Germany, or the Master of Science at University College Dublin, Ireland. Applicants should note that this is a separate process which they must undertake before or in parallel to applying for the Fellowship.
- The national body may submit a maximum of two completed applications to UNESCO, one of which must be from a professional already working at a World Heritage property. The national body is also required to provide a statement of support for each application and a commitment to facilitate the applicant's participation if it is successful, for example by releasing the applicant from their duties if they are an employee of the State and guaranteeing a return to post after completion of the studies.
- A jury made up of representatives of UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee and its Advisory Bodies, the Universities, and the donor selects the successful candidates, subject to confirmation of acceptance at one of the host Universities. An exchange of letters setting out the amount and terms of the award constitutes a contract between UNESCO and the applicant.
- An official announcement and awards ceremony will take place in Paris (Fellows' travel and accommodation costs for their participation in the ceremony will be covered.)
- UNESCO transfers Fellowship Funds to the host universities providing for tuition, international travel, a monthly stipend to cover living expenses (accommodation, , food, books, local transport and other out of pocket expenses) and mandatory health insurance. The host institution manages these funds on behalf of UNESCO.

The 2008 Competition

In 2008, a minimum of 5 Fellowships will be awarded following. Each Fellowship is for up to 2 years to cover taught coursework and an extended period of research at a World Heritage property. It is expected that this research will form the core of the Fellow's Masters thesis.

Eligibility

Specific rules of eligibility have been established.

- The Programme is open to citizens of States Parties to the 1972 *World Heritage Convention*, aged 45 or under.
- Priority will be given to applicants from developing countries and to those who are currently working at a World Heritage property. <http://propertyresources.worldbank.org/DATASTATISTICS/Resources/CLASS.XLS>.
- Candidates must have a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science Degree (or equivalent) in fields related to the management, conservation and development of World Heritage properties. Applicants can come from fields such as anthropology, architecture, archaeology, geography, ethnology, museum sciences, visual arts, landscape, sociology, history, history of art, environment, urban planning and management, ecology, forestry, marine and coastal sciences, natural resource management, and civil engineering.
- Applicants should not be in receipt of actual or apply for financial assistance from any other grant making body or government during the period of the award.
- Applicants must have the written support of the official national liaison body for UNESCO of the country of which they are a citizen. Applications without this endorsement will not be considered.
- As both the UCD and BTU Cottbus courses are taught in English, it is vital that all candidates have an excellent command of the English language. Details of acceptable proof are set out below¹.

Application instructions

Applicants should send a complete application package, available from <http://whc.unesco.org> in English or French as appropriate, to the official national liaison body for UNESCO of the country of which they are a citizen, requesting their support for

¹ Candidates applying to BTU should provide via a TOEFL certificate with a minimum of 79 points (internet-based), 231 points (computer-based) or 550 points (paper-based) or, alternatively the Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (min. grade B); the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (min. grade B) or the IELTS (min. 6.5).

Candidates applying to UCD should have a minimum score of 550 TOEFL (213 computer based, with test of written English at 475+) or 6.0 IELTS. Other evidence of proficiency in English - such as the Cambridge certificate – may also be accepted. Candidates should check with the university.

Exempted from this regulation are candidates whose mother tongue is English, candidates from countries in which English is the official language or candidates who completed a degree at an recognized higher education institution where English is the medium of instruction.

the application. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the package arrives in good time for country level assessments to be made. It is equally his or her responsibility to apply for a place on the UCD or BTU World Heritage Masters course. This should be done in advance of or in parallel with applying for the Fellowship but candidates should enclose a copy of the university application or acceptance with their dossier.

The application package should include:

1. Application form. This is available as a pdf file at <http://whc.unesco.org>. It must be completed in full.
2. A language certificate issued by an official authority (e.g. British Council).
3. Certified copies of university degrees or diplomas.
4. A personal statement of no more than 200 words explaining why the Fellowship is being sought and how the applicant and his/her country would benefit from it.
5. A succinct description of the field research proposed by the applicant which should be limited to 500 words and include:
 - (i) the name of the World Heritage property to be studied;
 - (ii) the duration of the project – which should be no more than one year;
 - (iii) a description of the management challenge to be addressed and how the project would reinforce management capacities at the property;
 - (iv) how the project would involve or positively impact on the communities living in or around the property;
 - (v) the contribution to raising awareness about the World Heritage Convention

Given the requirement for home country support, applicants are responsible for ensuring that they submit their application package in good time for the necessary checks to be made. Once the decision to support an applicant has been confirmed, the national liaison body completes the relevant section of the application and forwards the package to UNESCO.

Only applications submitted via the official national liaison body for UNESCO (usually the National Commission) will be considered. Applications must be received by UNESCO's World Heritage Centre on or before 11 April 2008.

Successful candidates will be contacted before the end of June 2008. If you have not heard from UNESCO by this time, you should, regrettably, assume that your application has not been successful.