



Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
معهد عصام فارس للسياسات العامة والشؤون الدولية



Global Partnership for Water and Development



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Climate change

STUDENT APPLICATION

The American University of Beirut's Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs and Banque Libano-Française in partnership with IHE Delft and Wageningen University and Research (WUR) invite graduate students (Masters and PhD) in universities in Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Iraq, in addition to IHE Delft and WUR in the Netherlands, to participate in a competition for the best research proposal on Climate Change Adaptation in the Levant Region (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine) under the general theme of "the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus approach from theory to implementation".

CONTEXT

Building on Issam Fares Institute's (IFI's) and Banque Libano-Française (BLF) first annual student competition on climate change. IFI and BLF are partnering with IHE Delft and Wageningen University and Research (WUR) in the Netherlands to launch the second annual student competition on climate change. The aim of this competition is to encourage interdisciplinary research on climate change adaptation and water scarcity solutions that can inform policy making.

This year's competition (2018-2019) will be open to graduate students from universities in countries of the Levant region (Lebanon, Jordan Palestine and Iraq) as well as from IHE Delft and WUR in the Netherlands. The theme will be the Water-Energy-Food Nexus and how to transform it from theory to practice in adapting to climate change and water scarcity challenges. The competition will provide graduate students with the added incentive and opportunity to select, design and present innovative and multidisciplinary research ideas, from both the applied natural, technical and the social sciences that are geared towards climate change in the region.

The top six research proposals will be selected by December 2018 and will be awarded monetary prizes.

ABOUT THE 2018-2019 THEME

The Levant region of Western Asia is facing critical natural resources problems and pressures. Climate change, population growth, food insecurity, water scarcity, extreme weather events and regional tensions over shared water resources pose challenges that are expected to increase in the future. At the same time, the interlinkages between the water, energy and food production resources, though evident, are often discarded in policy and project development. In the agricultural sector these interlinkages are more evident. The agricultural sector is the highest consumer of water around the world and in the region and access to water and its distribution to urban areas consumes significant amounts of energy. In addition energy production requires the use of water. These represent minute examples of such interlinkages.

It is becoming more evident that a change in the current approach to planning and management of already diminishing resources in the region is imperative. Moreover, a change in mindset is required for effective management of natural resources. The nexus is one approach that integrates management and governance across sectors and scales (Hoff, 2011). A water-energy-food nexus approach framework has the potential to address and achieve the sectoral SDGs 2 (Zero Hunger), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean

Energy) as well as 13 (Climate Action) among other related SDGs, by recognizing the links between the three sectors and supporting an integrated management concept. Such an integrated approach is also expected to act as a vehicle for climate change adaptation and transitioning to a green economy.

With the theory on the WEF nexus approach emphasized during recent years, the understanding and means of implementing such an approach is still nascent. A better understanding of how to best reduce trade-offs and enhance efficiencies in a win-win scenario for all sectors is still lacking.

Accordingly, the competition this year aims to encourage multidisciplinary research on the Water-Energy-Food Nexus that generates knowledge for better implementation of a nexus approach to reduce the vulnerability to climate change of communities in the MENA region to enable them to better adapt. All research proposals should inform policy making.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Students should be full-time and active graduate students in good standing (i.e. no academic probation or disciplinary issues) at universities from Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine or Iraq or students from IHE Delft and WUR in the Netherlands working on the topic ;
- Students from all majors are encouraged to apply;
- Students should secure commitment from an advisor to supervise the proposed research;
- Good command of the English language (comprehension and writing).

ABOUT THE 2018-2019 THEME

- Submitted research proposal should be 1000 -1500 words and in English.
- The proposal should be a summary of a prospective thesis or project which includes a methodology section.
- Key criteria - the proposal should:
 - Show a clear understanding of the topic at hand - namely the interrelation between Climate Change and Water Scarcity within the context of Water-Energy-Food Nexus;
 - Be innovative;
 - Be interdisciplinary;
 - Have policy relevance;
 - Include an achievable set of objectives; and
 - Be written in good quality English.
- Selected students are expected to present their preliminary research results in a public event.
- Students are expected to submit a research working paper (guidelines will be shared with winning students at a later stage).
- Preference will be given to students from the Levant region.
- The award is for a maximum of \$2,000 USD for the selected research proposals.
- Award will be paid over two installments.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Proposals should be submitted to climatechange@aub.edu.lb using the following [Application form](#) no later than October 1, 2018.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Research proposal submission deadline October 1, 2018
- Announcement of winners December, 2018
- Submission of draft working research paper June 3rd, 2019
- Submission of final working paper October 1, 2019
- Presentation of results at an event in October - December 2019