

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## HUBS OF ISLAND INNOVATION - MOBILITY AND PEER-MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

### 1. Who is eligible to apply for this program?

The program is open exclusively to “professionals” living and working in [Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)](#). Applicants must be actively engaged in work that supports climate resilience, adaptation, or resource-use governance in their home context. Examples of themes are listed above, and below as FAQ #3. Students aren’t eligible for this program.

### 2. Is there an age requirement to apply?

There is no age limit. The program welcomes early-, mid-, and senior-career professionals. Evaluation will be based on applicant’s career stage and accomplishments.

### 3. What thematic areas are prioritized in the selection process?

While SIDS face diverse challenges, the program prioritizes themes related to climate resilience and resource-use security. Priority areas may include (but are not limited to) water, energy, and food security; transport and infrastructure; and institutional capacity strengthening for resource-use governance and policy. Program themes will be fine-tuned with participating host institutions to ensure alignment with shared priorities and mutual benefits.

### 4. Can applicants propose their own host institution or project topic?

Yes. Applicants may propose a host institution of their choice, provided the institution agrees to support the placement. Project topics should align with the program’s thematic priorities and be feasible within the mobility period.

### 5. When will applicants be notified of the results?

Applicants will be notified of the selection results end of March or beginning of April 2026.

### 6. Are there any fees associated with participating in the program?

There are no fees asked from selected candidates. Successful participants will receive up to CAD \$12,000 to cover expenses incurred during the two-month in-person mobility. Please note that reimbursements will be issued based on documented expenses.

### 7. What are the contents of the 10-week online course?

There are 4 modules for the online course. You can view video introduction to each module [HERE](#).

### 8. What certificate will participants receive upon completion?

Participants who successfully complete all program components will receive a certificate of completion from the University of Waterloo titled “*Metabolism of Islands: Advancing an Island Circular Economy for Climate Adaptation*.” The course is free for selected applicants.

**9. How many hours per week should participants expect to dedicate to the virtual component of the program (~ 4 months)?**

The virtual component of the program will be in the first and last 2 months (so ~ 4 months out of a total of 6 months). For the virtual component, participants should plan to invest approximately 20 hours per week. This includes ~10 hours per week for the 10-week online course at the start of the fellowship. In addition to the online course, during the virtual component, participants will also collaborate remotely with their host institution on their proposed project. After completing the in-person mobility, participants will return to their home institutions to finalize their project deliverables.

**10. How much time is expected of participants during the in-person mobility component?**

Participants must commit full-time to a minimum of one- month in-person component at their host institution. Applicants must also secure an endorsement from their home institution confirming release from work duties for the duration of the placement.

**11. Will participants be responsible for arranging visas, travel, and accommodation?**

Yes. While host institutions will provide guidance and relevant information, participants are responsible for arranging their own visas, travel, and accommodation for the in-person component.

**12. Can the in-person mobility period be extended or shortened?**

The minimum in-person mobility period is one month, and the maximum is two months. No additional extensions can be granted.

**13. Are participants expected to produce specific deliverables?**

Yes. Participants are expected to complete agreed-upon project deliverables in collaboration with their host institution. Deliverables may include reports, datasets, policy briefs, or other outputs relevant to the proposed project. The expected outputs must be mentioned in the 3-page proposal.

**14. Will participants receive mentorship during the program?**

It is expected that participants are able to work independently and be the lead of their own work. However, mentorship is provided. Each participant will be paired with a mentor from their host institution who will provide guidance throughout the virtual and in-person components of the program.

**15. Can applicants participate while working full-time?**

Yes. The online component is designed to accommodate working professionals if you are willing to commit to ~20 hours / week. However, for the in-person component, time commitment is full-time. Hence, applicants must secure approval from their home institution to be released from work duties.