

The Hague, 07 April 2016

Subject: Fully Funded Opportunity: Refresher Course in Colombia 26 September – 9 October 2016

Call for applications (deadline 29 May 2016)

Dear ISS Alumni,

We are delighted to invite you to apply for a Refresher Course on the theme
*Conflict Transformation, Peace Settlements and Social Justice in Latin America:
Gendered Intersections*

This course will be held in Bogotá 26 September – 9 October 2016 and is organized by the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS/EUR, The Hague; www.iss.nl) in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (PUJ), in Colombia (www.javeriana.edu.co). The course will be led by Dubravka Zarkov (ISS) and Mery Edith Rodríguez Arias (PUJ).

Background to the objectives of the refresher course:

Latin America has seen a number of violent conflicts in the last two centuries. Protagonists of the longest running one – in Colombia – are currently negotiating a peace settlement. Will peace be achieved, and if so what safeguards will there be for social, economic and environmental justice? What will it mean for the socially marginalized communities, such as indigenous people and peasants dispossessed of land through violence and encroachment of plantation and mining companies; for internally displaced people and urban poor; for families of disappeared and women and men who survived sexual and other forms of war violence?

The refresher course will provide participants the opportunity to address these questions using explicit gender and intersectional perspectives, combining their existing and updated knowledge of the global, regional and national dynamics of conflicts and post-conflict transformations in Latin America. They will be aided in this process by refreshing old and gaining most recent theoretical insights into the fields of gender and intersectionality; social, economic and environmental justice; (post-)conflict transformation and peace settlements; security; human rights and transitional justice; and the links between them.

The two week refresher course will support and enhance participants' analytical and intervention tools (gender and intersectional analysis, mapping) and methods (participatory/action research). Outputs include individual action plans for each participant, to be realized within their organization/institution, with firmly integrated gendered perspectives. An open-source database for curricula development, research and intervention will also be created (among others).

Who can apply and is eligible for the refresher course?

You are an **eligible candidate** for the refresher course if you meet the following criteria:

- You are alumni of a Dutch university and hold an MA or Diploma in Development Studies; particularly ISS Major Social Justice Perspective/Human Rights, Gender and Conflict Studies; and ISS Major Agrarian, Food and Environmental Studies; and/or specializations: Women, Gender, Development; Conflict Studies; Human Rights; Environmental Studies; or comparable disciplines;
- You received a NFP, MSP and NICHE/NPT scholarship (thus, those who were self-paying students or those with a scholarship from any other donor are not eligible);
- You are a national of, **AND** also working and living in, one of the following five countries: Colombia, Bolivia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru;
- You are an alumni, having completed your NFP, MSP or NICHE/NPT-funded training or education course at least **two years** prior to the start date of the refresher course.

In addition, to apply for the refresher course you must also:

- be a professional with at least three years' work experience;
- be employed in the fields that are the focus of the refresher course, and/or can demonstrate the relevance of the refresher course for the capacity development of yourself, as an individual professional, as well as that of your organisation; have a clear-cut, functional relationship within your employing organization and/or with other relevant organisations and be in a position to introduce the newly acquired skills and knowledge into that organisation;
- be available for the entire period of the course;
- not have participated in any other NFP refresher course in the years 2014/2015 & 2015/2016;
- endorse the objective and the aims of the NFP and use the new knowledge and skills to support your employing organisation and country.

Please note that you are **NOT** eligible for a NFP fellowship if you are employed by, or have a contract with, any of the following national or international organizations:

- a multinational corporation (e.g. Shell, Unilever, Microsoft);
- a large national and/or large commercial organisation (does not apply to national level NGOs and universities);
- a bilateral donor organisation (e.g. USAID, DFID, Danida, Sida, Dutch ministry of Foreign affairs, FinAid, AusAid, ADC, SwissAid and alike);
- a multilateral donor organisation, (e.g. a UN organisation, the World Bank, the IMF, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and alike);
- an international NGO (e.g. Oxfam, Plan, Care and alike);

A small number of places are also open to:

- direct colleagues of participating alumni who work in the same organisation or organisational unit;

- one or two staff members of the partner institution, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, involved in the design and execution of the refresher course.

Application and selection procedures:

In order to apply, you need the following documents:

- A letter of motivation (max. 600 words) outlining:
 - your current field of work, how this relates to the refresher course, and what specifically you would hope to work on during the course;
 - your interest in the course; and its relevance for your personal development and the capacity development of your organization;
- An updated CV (max. 3 pages);
- A letter from your employer endorsing your participation in the refresher course and confirming your availability for its duration; and how the course will aid you in your role and in the organization's capacity development (max. 300 words).

Applications must be submitted **online**.

The ISS selection committee will pre-select and rank the applicants in consultation with PUJ, in accordance with the criteria of regional, professional and gender balance of the refresher course participants. The pre-selected applicants will be contacted by **24 June 2016** and informed of whether or not they have been short-listed.

The final list of participants will be discussed with Nuffic. The definitive decision will be announced by **15 July 2016**.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Kind regards,

Dubravka Zarkov (ISS) and Mery Edith Rodriguez Arias (PUJ), course leaders

N.B. The same announcement and call for applications is placed on the ISS Alumni Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/issalumni>) and the ISS Alumni LinkedIn group ([https://www.linkedin.com/edu/international-institute-of-social-studies-\(iss\)-of-erasmus-university-rotterdam-42258](https://www.linkedin.com/edu/international-institute-of-social-studies-(iss)-of-erasmus-university-rotterdam-42258))

This document has been revised to reflect the extended application deadline of 29 May 2016.