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**2020 ProSPER.Net Young Researchers’ School**

**“Big Data on Earth System Science for Sustainable Development”**

**9 to 15 March, 2020**

**Application**

**Applications:** Applications are openfor postgraduate students from ProSPER.Net member universities to participate in an interdisciplinary intensive Young Researchers’ School on ‘Big Data on Earth System Science for Sustainable Development’.

**Resource Persons:** Sustainability experts from United Nations University - Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and ProSPER.Net member universities will coordinate lectures, group work, and other activities.

**Aims:** Participants in the Young Researchers’ School will:

* Develop advanced knowledge and skills in sustainability research and practice, with a special focus on application and implementation of data on sustainability and earth system science;
* Develop in-depth research design and planning skills;
* Enhance transferable skills on communication, presentation and group work;
* Become part of a network of sustainability researchers in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Study Theme:**

The Young Researchers’ School will provide the participants with the opportunity to explore different dimensions of sustainability issues related to the current situation in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focusing on issues related to climate system, biogeochemistry, earth system observation and simulation technology, high performance computing, and global change economics, to better meet the challenges of global environmental change and sustainable development.

Along with a series of lectures by resource persons and field trips, participants will be introduced to sustainability challenges and the innovative approaches that can be used to address these. Based on these lessons, students will develop individual solutions and find ways to promote sustainable solutions.

Whilst it is recommended that applicants have a basis in GIS or other software related to data analysis, those with limited or no experience are also encouraged to apply, and students will receive mentoring on the development of their own thesis proposal.

**Tasks** will include:

* Small group work on research proposal development, integrating lecture and fieldtrip topics into a proposal that addresses sustainable development challenges in the region
* Individual presentation development, using three minute thesis presentation to help students with their own thesis development
* Active participation in all lectures, group work, and field trips, engaging with resource persons and fellow students
* Research communication activities

The Young Researchers’ School will engage students in the joint investigation of sustainability issues and also help them develop the important research skills needed for interdisciplinary problem-based research. Workshops at the Young Researchers’ School will focus on research skills and strategies for effective research design and planning, including student research plan presentations.

**Selection Criteria:** Participants will be selected on the basis of written application according to the following criteria:

* Currently enrolled in a postgraduate programme in a ProSPER.Net member university.
* Chosen a research topic for their PhD thesis work
* High level of understanding of written and spoken English language.
* An advanced understanding of sustainability and its relevance to their own research.
* Demonstrated ability to work in a team environment and contribute to community service activities.
* Limited seats are offered to Master students in ProSPER.Net member universities

**Scholarships:** A limited number of scholarships are available. The scholarships cover all costs of the Young Researchers’ School tuition, a round-trip economy class ticket to Beijing, visa processing fee (if applicable) and most meals. Travel insurance is mandatory and is the participant’s responsibility to insure with participant’s own cost.

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**Application Form**

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| **Family name:** | |  | | | | | | | | |
| **First and other names:** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Date of Birth (DD/MM/YY):** | | | | | | | | | | **Gender:** |
| **Nationality:** | | | | | | | **Name of the closest airport**  **to your current location:** | | | |
| **Email:** | |  | | | | | | | | |
| **University:** | |  | | | | | | | | |
| **Department:** | |  | | | | | | | | |
| **Name of University ProSPER.Net Representative:**  **Email:**  **Telephone:** | | | | | | | |  | | |
| **University funding available for your participation? :**  **Yes / No**  **If yes, please specify what can be covered (ex. air ticket)**  **Need of scholarship:**  **Yes / No** | | | | | | | | **University Certification**  **I certify that the information provided by the applicant is true.**  **Signature of Supervisor Name of Supervisor**  **Date (DD/MM/YY)** | | |
| **Please inform the stage of your postgraduate course**  **Master studies (1st year, 2nd year…) Ph.D. studies (1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year...):** | | | | | | | |
| **Please indicate your English level ability from 1 to 5** | | | | | | | |
|  | **Poor Excellent** | | | | | | |
| **Reading** | **1** | | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | |
| **Writing** | **1** | | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | |
| **How does your PhD research relate and contribute to sustainable development? (maximum 500 words)** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Demonstrated ability to work in a team environment and experience in community development/service activities (maximum 500 words)** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **What is your vision to build a sustainable society? (maximum 500 words)** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Research publications and/or presentations (conferences and dissertation defense, etc)** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Have you ever participated in the ProSPER.Net YRS and/or Leadership Programme (LP)?**  **No / Yes  if yes, Which programme? Which year?** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Certification**  I certify that the answers to the above questions are true. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Signature** | | | | | | | | | **Date (DD/MM/YY)** | |

This form should be completed and emailed as an attachment ***in Word or PDF format***, together with a ***recommendation letter*** from your direct supervisor, to the ProSPER.Net Secretariat ([yrs@unu.edu](mailto:yrs@unu.edu)) **by 11:59 pm, 6 October 2019 (Japan Standard Time).**