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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**(of UNESCO)**

**Twenty-eighth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE-28)**

**12-14 March 2025**

**IOC OCEANTRAINING INTERNSHIPS 2024-2025**

The IOC OceanTraining Internships aim to promote national and international exchange of professionals to acquire expertise related to the IOC mandate (research, services, and capacity-building). Through a learning-by-doing approach, the participants have the opportunity to learn from experts in the field on a daily basis and contribute to the development of new resources fit for the global or regional community. The internships are complementary to the ongoing capacity development activities conducted by the IOC, directly linked to its global programmes. These IOC programme offices (or associated network of regional specialized centres) will host, mentor, and supervise professionals for a short training period and specific product or service delivery, to be incorporated into the current IOC infrastructure. Explicit priority is given to sponsoring the exchange of early career ocean professionals (ECOPs) from under-resourced nations (e.i., Small Development Island States and Least Developed Countries, SIDS/LDCs), indigenous communities, and other minority groups to contribute to reducing inequality in human and institutional capacity. The ultimate goal of this project is to build expertise for the Ocean, promoting collaborative opportunities for continuous professional development and lifelong learning. The internships benefit IOC Programme Offices and network specialized centres, IOC Regional Sub-Commissions, and Member States. The IOC OceanTraining Internships is a project led by IOC CD coordination office hosted by the IODE and made possible through voluntary contributions to the IOC Special Account, including NORAD.

Activities successfully delivered in 2024

(1) Coordination, development, and systematization of the exchange organization, logistics, and operations IOC CD secretariat, IODE administrative staff, and OTGA secretariat, including:

* Co-design of the general structure, flow, and timeline of the internships.
* Organization of documentation, administrative procedures, and workflow to support management and operationalization of the internships.
* Definition and publication of the Terms of Reference and guidelines for interns, mentors, and host centres.
* Launch of the call for applications from interested host institutions and mentors.
* Approval of host institutions, mentors, and respective workplans for the internship.
* Launch of the call for applications of interns.
* Selection of interns (review of applications, scoring system, criteria, and committee).
* Institutional and office support to participants during the internship.

(2) Implementation of internships and mentoring: (1 October and end of December/January)

* Six institutions were selected as host institutions: two OBIS nodes (Australia and Deep-sea nodes), two OTGA Regional Training Centres (RTC ), one OTGA Specialized Training Centre and Tsunami data centre, and one NODC.
* The working plans submitted were ocean data management and tsunami resilience.
* Seven interns from seven Member States were selected as beneficiaries
* Travel costs and up to 3 months' allowances total or partially sponsored by IOC

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **HOST INSTITUTION/****LOCATION** | **MENTOR** | **NAME OF INTERN** | **NATIONALITY OF INTERN** |
| [Servicio de Hidrografía Naval](https://www.hidro.gov.ar/)Av Montes de Oca 2124 Buenos Aires C1270ABV Argentina | [Alvaro Scardilli](https://oceanexpert.org/expert/alvaroscardilli) | Joaquin Chaves Mena (M) | Uruguay |
| [CSIRO NCMI Information and Data Centre](https://www.csiro.au/en) 3 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, Tasmania 7004, Australia  | [Katherine Tattersall](https://oceanexpert.org/expert/35925) | (Deferred to next cycle) |  |
| [INVEMAR - Marine and Coastal Research Institute in Colombia](https://www.invemar.org.co/) Calle 25 #2-55, Playa Salguero Rodadero postal address) \* Santa Marta, Magdalena 470006, Colombia | [Carolina Garcia](https://oceanexpert.org/expert/cgv)  | (Deferred to next cycle) |  |
| [Senckenberg Research Intitute and Natural History Museum](https://www.senckenberg.de/en/institutes/senckenberg-research-institute-natural-history-museum-frankfurt/)Department of Marine Zoology, Biodiversity Information, Frankfurt am Main, Germany 60325  | [Hanieh Saeedi](https://www.oceanexpert.org/expert/31273)  | Benjamin Tsirlaza (M) | Madagascar |
| [International Tsunami Information Centre](http://itic.ioc-unesco.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=1161&Itemid=2254) Honolulu, HI USA | [Laura Kong](https://oceanexpert.org/expert/16046)  | Muhammad Harvan (M) | Indonesia |
| Taniela Takeifanga (M) | Tonga |
| [INCOIS](https://incois.gov.in/)Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services"Ocean Valley", Pragathi Nagar (BO), Nizampet (SO), Hyderabad, Telangana 500090, India | [PavanKumar Jonnakuti](http://pavankumar.j@incois.gov.in)  | Pesahala Ranmini (F) | Sri Lanka |

Summary results of 2024 internships

The IOC Ocean Training Internships announced the start of the pilot phase of the programme in April 2024, inviting IOC Programmes and IOC Regional Sub-Commissions

to invite potential host institutions amongst IOC offices and/or associated networks. This ensured that the interns would be trained by a host institution actively working with one of IOC’s global programmes and would receive enough support and resources. Interested institutions were requested to submit complete requirements through an online application page (<https://otga.wufoo.com/forms/zna3kxa0lhkrwn/>).

The IOC Ocean Training Internships received and approved applications from 6 host institutions, including two OBIS nodes (Australia and Deep-sea nodes), two OTGA Regional Training Centres (RTC India and RTC Colombia), one OTGA Specialized Training Centre and International Tsunami Information Center (ITIC), and one NODC (NODC Argentina). The working plans submitted were ocean data management and tsunami resilience.

A call for internship applicants was announced on IOC-CD website, providing guidelines and specifying the opportunities in each host institution. The call was circulated as an invitation directly to the IOC Programmes and IOC Regional Sub-Commissions, to lead the contact with the associated networks. This call welcomed participants that meet the following requirements:

* be at the early stages of career development;
* be citizens from IOC Member States included in the DAC List of ODA (refer to OECD DAC);
* be employed by government institutions;
* and work on activities contributing to implementation of work plans adopted by IOC Regional Sub-Commissions.

Seven interns were selected for the 2024 cohort, from 30 applicants. IOC provided financial support to cover the intern’s costs (airfare, travel and medical insurance, accommodation, and monthly allowance), allowing the project to sponsor a maximum of 6 interns. An additional intern was supported by the Tsunami programme to be hosted at ITIC Hawaii.

2025 Cycle

The 2025 cycle will be launched in early 2025 with the proposed timeline below.

January – February 2025: Call for host institutions

March 2025: Host institutions selected

April – May 2025: Call for internship applications

June – August 2025: Placements and logistics

September – December 2025: Conduct of internships