
J-WAFS Travel Grants for Water Conferences 2019 Call for Applications

Application Due Date: 5:00 pm EST on Wednesday, May 15th, 2019. Application details below

Background

The Abdul Latif Jameel Water and Food Systems Lab (J-WAFS) was established in 2014 as an Institute-wide effort to bring MIT's unique strengths to bear on the many challenges of water and food supply. J-WAFS catalyzes MIT research, innovation, and technology for ensuring safe and resilient supplies of water and food while reducing environmental impact, to meet the local and global needs of a rapidly expanding and evolving population on a changing planet.

J-WAFS is offering travel grants for graduate students to attend [Stockholm World Water Week \(August 25-30, 2019\)](#), an international water conference. Nearly 400 organizations from 130 countries meet at this event, organized to discuss global water issues. This year's theme is "Water for society – Including all." Xylem Inc., a J-WAFS Research Affiliate company, is the global sponsor of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize, awarded during the event. The selected students will benefit from opportunities to interact with Xylem leaders and participate in Xylem-sponsored side events.

J-WAFS will select two or more outstanding students to receive conference registration and travel funding for this conference. Through these grants we seek to support learning and networking opportunities for outstanding MIT students who are pursuing careers in the water sector, whether in academia, non-profits, government, or industry.

These travel grants are funded through a gift to J-WAFS from Xylem, a leading global water technology company with operations in more than 150 countries. Xylem has been named four times to the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for advancing sustainable business practices and solutions worldwide. Xylem is a major sponsor of the Stockholm conference, and the selected students may have the opportunity to engage with Xylem's CTO around the format and agenda for a session they are sponsoring on "Women in Water." (Note that his opportunity is not limited to female students.) Summary information about the conferences is provided in the addendum to this announcement, and detailed information is available at the conference website link above.

Eligibility and Expectations

Students eligible to apply for the travel grants must currently be full-time MIT graduate students whose research, academics, and other activities demonstrate a commitment to addressing water quality, water

supply, or related public or private sector challenges around water use, sustainability, and access, as well as an interest in pursuing a career in the water sector.

Students selected for support will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements, and if they don't hold a US passport, they are responsible for determining requirements and applying in a timely manner for any needed visas.

Funded students will be expected to maintain a daily journal at the conference, in which they record and reflect on their experiences there, including sessions attended, people they meet or engage with, interactions with Xylem, what they are learning, and how the conference influences their thinking about their research or career aspirations. Upon return J-WAFS' communications and program manager Andi Sutton will request a summary of the student's experience as well as photos to be used in J-WAFS's newsletter, communications with the funder, and other materials. The funded students will also be asked to acknowledge their appreciation to Xylem for the gift that is supporting this funding opportunity and any additional opportunities provided during the conference.

Application and Selection Process

Applications for consideration should be sent by email to jwafsapPLY@mit.edu. Complete application packets (see detailed instructions below) are due by email no later than **5:00 pm EST on Wednesday, May 15th, 2019**.

J-WAFS will select students to be awarded funding based on their statement of interest, resume and academic achievement, and expected benefit from attending the conference. Decisions are expected to be announced within a week or two of the application deadline.

Applications must include the following:

Part 1: Student application

Please submit the following, in a single PDF, in the order given below:

1. A completed cover sheet (see separate attachment).
2. Your resume or CV.
3. A brief statement of interest. The statement should directly address these three questions in one to two pages:
 - Why would you like to attend Stockholm World Water Week?
 - What water sector issues are of most interest to you?
 - What are your career and/or MIT research objectives and how will they benefit from attendance at this conference?
4. A current, unofficial copy of your transcript (*this can be obtained free of charge with a photo ID from Student Financial Services, room 11-120*).



Part 2: Faculty advisor support

Your MIT faculty advisor or program director should email a statement of support directly from his/her MIT email account to jwafsappl@mit.edu. The letter should confirm your MIT research interests and career objectives related to water, and the anticipated benefit of your participation in the preferred conference.

Questions? Please contact Andi Sutton at J-WAFS, at arsutton@mit.edu.



Addendum: Conference Information

Stockholm World Water Week (SIWI), August 25-30, 2019

[Stockholm World Water Week](#) is the annual focal point for the globe's water issues. It is organized by [SIWI](#), the Stockholm International Water Institute. In 2019, World Water Week will address the theme "Water for society – Including all." In 2018, over 3,300 individuals and around 380 convening organizations from 135 countries participated in World Water Week. The event is held in the heart of Stockholm at Stockholm City Conference Centre.

World Water Week provides a unique forum for the exchange of views, experiences, and practices between the scientific, business, policy, and civic communities. It focuses on new thinking and positive action toward water-related challenges and their impact on the world's environment, health, climate, economic and poverty reduction.

Experts, practitioners, decision makers, business innovators, and young professionals from a range of sectors and countries attend World Water Week in Stockholm to network, exchange ideas, foster new thinking, and develop solutions to the most pressing water-related challenges of today. More than 200 events, seminars, showcases, field trips, and plenaries make up World Water Week.

Xylem has been a collaborating sponsor of this important gathering of thought leaders for more than a decade, and is the Founding Global Sponsor of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. MIT students attending the conference will be invited by Xylem to join 50-60 country [Junior Water Prize](#) winners for a tour of Xylem's facilities in Stockholm, and will be invited to the final judging and award ceremony for the Stockholm Junior Water Prize, attended by Princess Victoria of Sweden and members of Xylem's leadership team.

View the 2019 program here: <https://programme.worldwaterweek.org/Schedule#thumbnail-view>





**Application Cover Sheet for
2019 J-WAFS Travel Grants for Water Conferences**

STUDENT CANDIDATE INFORMATION	
Full name:	
Preferred first name:	
Preferred salutation & preferred pronoun:	[Ms.], [Mr.], [she], [he], [they], etc.
MIT department/degree program/ anticipated graduation date:	
Email address:	
Cell phone number:	

FACULTY ADVISOR INFORMATION	
Full name:	
MIT department:	
Email address:	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
MIT graduate studies GPA:	
Use this space to note any additional information relevant to your application:	

*Questions? Contact Andi Sutton (arsutton@mit.edu)
Please include this completed cover sheet as the first page of pdf submitted as Part 1 of your
application.
Thank you!*