



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-EHS

Institute for Environment
and Human Security

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PhD Scholar

Closing date: Wednesday, 25 March 2009

The **UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY Institute for Environment and Human Environment (UNU-EHS)** in Bonn has been conceived and created to assess the vulnerability and coping capacity of societies facing natural and human-induced hazards in a changing environment. Generating policy relevant knowledge and engaging in innovative human capacity building are core tasks emanating from this mandate. In this capacity, UNU-EHS is one of 13 partners implementing the EC (European Commission) 7th Framework Programme **MOVE** (Methods for the Improvement of Vulnerability Assessment in Europe) project. This project aims to create knowledge, frameworks and methods for the assessment of vulnerability of social-ecological systems to natural hazards in Europe. UNU-EHS offers a three year PhD Scholarship within the remit of this project.

UNU-EHS invites applications for the following post as doctoral candidate:

- **PhD Scholar – Reference MOVE/RA/UNU-EHS/2009/002**

Geography or natural sciences background oriented towards environmental sciences

The applicant will carry out research on vulnerability assessment concepts and methodologies (theoretical aspects) and implement these in the context of floods and heat waves at the local to sub-national scales in the case study area of the Cologne-Bonn metropolitan area (practical aspects). Some research will also be carried out in the London and Barcelona case study areas.

The focus of the work will be on social-ecological systems and specifically on the resilience of ecosystems supplying essential services to the metropolitan areas considered. The research will therefore require the identification of appropriate indicators and indices as well as identification of appropriate statistical methods for their interpretation. Participatory methods will need to be developed to capture required data and information with a wide range of stakeholders such as the general population, experts in disaster risk management and urban planners, among others.

This position belongs to the UNU-EHS Section on Environmental Vulnerability & Energy Security in close collaboration with the Section on Vulnerability Assessment which coordinates the MOVE project at UNU-EHS. The successful applicant will work with the Heads as well as with other scientists and students of these sections.

For more information regarding UNU-EHS, visit our website, www.ehs.unu.edu.

The scholarship is available for a fixed, non-renewable three year period. Starting date will be as soon as possible after appointment, preferably on 1 April 2009. The successful candidate will be based at UNU-EHS in Bonn. The position requires an excellent command of English (spoken and written) and good knowledge of German.

Only applications via email will be accepted (please send applications to HRApplications@ehs.unu.edu). For any additional information with respect to applications, please contact Mrs Carlota Schneider (schneider@ehs.unu.edu). Applications should include a letter of motivation as well as curriculum vitae, study certificates, and any other supporting information.

Contracts for up to three years will be offered in the Personal Service Agreement (PSA) category of UNU-EHS. Suitably qualified women candidates are particularly encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted; unsuccessful applications can neither be acknowledged nor returned.