
Leadership Development Programme

Programme Description

1. Introduction

Recent trends in international debates, discussions and negotiations in a number of areas ranging from trade to intellectual property (IP) through to energy and environment evidence increased knowledge and capacity of developing country governments and institutions to analyse complex policy issues and to promote their interests. However, significant gaps remain and the ability of these countries to influence international policy-making through research, policy analysis and debate remains limited.

As the complexity of the issues and intricate linkages between various issues increase, constant rethinking of strategies and ideas is inescapable. In particular, linking local research and researchers to international policy formulation and rule-making processes and discussions and *vice-versa* remains a significant problem. As a result, international expertise from developing countries in key areas of international policy debates remains dominated by few over-stretched individuals and institutions. Apart from compromising the ability of developing countries to engage fully in international policy and rule-making, this state of affairs also means that there is limited critical debate among and between developing country experts. Through the Leadership Development Programme, IQsensato offers innovative and cost-effective ways to contribute to addressing these shortcomings.

2. Programme Objective

The objective of the Leadership Programme is to identify and provide opportunities for training, mentorship and international exposure for a new generation of research and policy leaders in IQsensato's areas of work. The Programme is therefore an important part of fulfilling our mission to harness the multidisciplinary research and analytical capacities in, and from, developing countries, in order to better shape and impact the development of international solutions to development challenges.

3. Programme Components and Eligibility

The Programme has three components. These are:

- the Research Support Awards and Mentorship scheme;
- A Student Associates Programme; and
- Internships and Fellowships.

To be eligible to participate in any of the components of the Programme, an applicant should be a developing country national, 32 years or younger and meet the specific criteria and conditions attached to the specific programme component as described below or contained in the announcements for applications.

3.1 Research Support Awards and Mentorship

This scheme is aimed at providing financial and other research support to young researchers to undertake research and policy analysis and publish research studies, journal articles or essays on topics determined by IQsensato. The end goal is to encourage and support quality and policy relevant research on key global issues that impact development, particularly in the four main thematic areas on which IQsensato focuses. Candidates are selected through competitions designed according to the specific project. The competitions are announced on our website as well as on various list-serves and other forums.

The winner(s) of the competition is awarded a monetary prize (determined according to the project) to support their research in addition to other recognition including publication of their research/essays for broader dissemination. Where applicable, the winner(s) will be given an opportunity to do research under the guidance of an IQsensato's director, a member of staff, a member of the Research and Strategy Advisory Group (R&SA Group) or a research associate and to co-publish with that director, staff member, R&SA member or research associate.

The successful candidates will be expected to undertake the research from their home institution or other base. This component is therefore executed mainly through online and telephone communication. Where possible, face-to-face meetings may also be arranged.

3.2 Student Associates Programme

This component of the Leadership Programme is targeted at masters or undergraduate students. The objective is to support promising and upcoming researchers by providing them with research training, mentorship and advice during their period of study.

Student Associates get support and services related to:

- Choosing research topics and researching for dissertations/thesis or other relevant publications.
- Publication of dissertation/thesis or other relevant publications.
- Accessing research materials including pre-publication access to IQsensato's research.
- Advice and information on further study programmes, scholarships, conferences, internships, fellowships and other further training opportunities.

Similarly to the research awards and mentorship scheme, this component of the Leadership Programme will be primarily conducted through online and telephone communication. Face-to-face meetings with IQsensato directors and staff may be arranged if necessary and feasible.

To become a Student Associate you need to apply by sending an e-mail to info@iqsensato.org attaching your CV and indicating your educational institution and course of study; your specific area of interest (e.g., trade, knowledge governance, innovation and IP, financing for development, environment etc) as well as a short statement of motivation highlighting your future interests and your leadership and research qualities. Applications for student associates are considered throughout the year. Once accepted, a short bio of the Student Associate is posted on the student associates' page of the IQsensato website together with information on their project/research.

3.3 Internships and Fellowships

Residential internships and fellowships are available at IQsensato from time to time. On a case-by-case basis, these opportunities may involve collaboration between IQsensato and other organisations in Geneva or elsewhere. The objective of the internships and fellowships is to provide young professionals with in-house research training and mentorship as well as project and general management training and capacity development. The intern or fellow works under the direct supervision of a director or other staff member.

Opportunities and the relevant conditions, including remuneration, and the specific requirements for internships and fellowships are announced on the IQsensato website as well as posted on list-serves and other forums, when they are available. Applications should be submitted as directed in the announcements. Unsolicited applications for internships and fellowships will not be considered.

The length of the internships and fellowships varies. In general, however, the length ranges from 2 months to 6 months. The length of advertised internships and fellowships will be specifically indicated in the application announcement.