
J-WAFS Travel Grants for Water Conferences 2018 Call for Applications

Background

The Abdul Latif Jameel World Water and Food Security 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 two travel grants for graduate students to attend one of two major upcoming water sector conferences: [Singapore International Water Week \(8-12 July, 2018\)](#) or [Stockholm World Water Week \(26 – 31 August, 2018\)](#). 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.

Two outstanding students will be selected to receive conference registration and travel funding for either of these conferences. (Grantees may choose.) These travel grants are funded through a gift to J-WAFS from Xylem Inc., a J-WAFS Research Affiliate and leading global water technology company with operations in more than 150 countries. Xylem was named to the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for the last four years for advancing sustainable business practices and solutions worldwide. Xylem is a major sponsor of both of the Stockholm and the Singapore conferences, and the selected students will benefit from opportunities to interact with Xylem leaders and participate in Xylem-sponsored side events. Summary information about these two conferences is provided in the addendum to this announcement, and detailed information is available at the conference website links above.

Eligibility and Expectations

Students eligible to apply for the travel grants must 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 and applying in a timely manner for any needed visas.

Upon return J-WAFS will request a summary of the student's experience, Xylem interactions, other connections made, etc., as well as photos to be used in various J-WAFS 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 Jasmine Edo, J-WAFS financial and project coordinator, at jedo@mit.edu. Complete application packets (see detailed instructions below) are due by email no later than **5:00 pm EST on Friday, May 18th, 2018**.

J-WAFS will select two students to be awarded funding based on their statement of interest, resume and academic achievement, and expected benefit from attending one of the conferences. 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 1-page statement of interest. The statement should directly address these three questions in one to two pages:
 - Which of the two conferences would you select to attend and why?
 - 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 Jasmine Edo, J-WAFS financial and project coordinator, at jedo@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 Jasmine Edo at J-WAFS, at jedo@mit.edu.



Addendum: Conference Information

Stockholm World Water Week (SIWI), 26-31 August, 2018

[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 2018, World Water Week will address the theme "Water, ecosystems, and human development." In 2017, 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 program here: <https://programme.worldwaterweek.org/Schedule#thumbnail-view>

Singapore International Water Week (SIWW), 8-12 July, 2018

The [Singapore International Water Week](#) (SIWW) is the global platform to share and co-create innovative water solutions. The biennial event gathers stakeholders from the global water industry to share best practices, showcase the latest technologies and tap business opportunities. SIWW is part of the strategic program of the Singapore Government to grow the water industry and develop water technologies. A major water sector event, the last Singapore International Water Week in 2016 attracted over 20,000 participants from 125 countries and regions.

Singapore International Water Week 2018 will be held in conjunction with the 6th World Cities Summit and the 4th CleanEnviro Summit Singapore at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands in



Singapore. The week-long conference includes an extensive trade show featuring water utilities, water sector companies, and water technology innovations, and many technical sessions. The exhibition is the international meeting place for engineers and companies to exchange solutions for national and international problems of water distribution and water purification. This fair is a communication and information platform in the industry and offers the exhibiting companies the opportunity to present themselves to a professional audience. Visitors can find in depth and comprehensive information on the latest trends and products in the industry.

Comprising the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize, Water Leaders Summit, Water Convention, Business Forums, Industrial Water Solutions Forum, Water Expo, TechXchange, Young Water Leaders Summit and HydroPreneur Programme, SIWW delivers a range of flagship program and platforms that bring together the global value chain of water to share the latest in business and technological innovations, as well as policy developments in water.

Xylem, Inc. is a founding sponsor of Singapore International Water Week. MIT students attending the Singapore Water Week will have the opportunity to visit [Visenti](#), a smart water analytics company and MIT water spinout that was [acquired by Xylem](#) in 2016, to meet the CTO of Xylem, and to join a Xylem-hosted reception at the conference.

View the water convention program here: <https://www.siww.com.sg/events/details/water-convention>

