



# UWE-AFRICA WATER SECURITY PROGRAMME

2013 - 2016



University of the  
West of England

## INTRODUCTION

It is widely recognised that the 21st century will be strongly marked by crisis over water.

Nowhere is this truer than in Africa, a continent marked by persistently low levels of socioeconomic development combined with environmental extremes.

While almost 100% of North Americans and Europeans have access to abundant clean drinking water only 58% of Kenyans and 60% of Ugandans have such access.

Just as significantly, around 40% of the world's population do not have access to adequate wastewater services.

Consequently there is, even in the 21st century, huge wastage in human life and livelihoods and therefore an imperative to act.



# PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The UWE-Africa Water Security Programme is an opportunity for UWE students to:

- Apply your skills and knowledge from your studies to field experience.
- Undertake dissertation research in a different socio-economic environment.
- Contribute to the development of communities in Africa.

## OVERVIEW

We are looking for 2nd year undergraduate students to undertake research and community engagement on water topics with our partner organisations in East Africa.

## ELIGIBILITY

Decisions will be made based on factors including your coursework and exam marks and the quality of your dissertation proposal, which will be on a water-related topic.

## FINANCIALS

We will fund up to 50% of costs incurred. There may also be potential funding opportunities from other UWE sources.

**For more information about deadlines and potential placement locations please email [lorraine.desouza@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:lorraine.desouza@uwe.ac.uk)**



## 2014 STUDENTS IN UGANDA

### CHARLOTTE WHITMARSH

“My dissertation, which looks at the links between seasonality, climate change and water as a barrier to agriculture, evolved so much during my placement with Volunteer Uganda.

Collecting data first hand as well as being part of the Ugandan experience has provided me with invaluable knowledge for my dissertation. I also gained significant research skills from learning how to record data to coding qualitative and quantitative data from focus groups.



Actively being involved in this research and meeting communities has given me more of an insight than any book ever could. It was a humbling yet incredible experience and one that I will never forget.”

### JARED JOSEPH-WHITE

“Overall my trip to Uganda has been the greatest experience of my life, and much is owed to the University for providing the opportunity.

The research has assisted in developing my dissertation, as it has provided me with primary data, which will underpin my hypothesis on water quality, water access and sanitation in schools in Kanungu. Data was collected through interviews and focus groups with school staff. Additionally, samples of treated water were collected and tested for faecal contamination.



If I had this opportunity again I would definitely stay in Uganda for longer.”

## ELENA SUCKLING

“My dissertation will look at whether students at private or government schools with higher fees have better access to water, and how they may be affected by this. This lack of access could mean missing lessons to collect water, or a lack of concentration caused by dehydration affecting the education of the students.

I can already see patterns from my research which I can now apply to my work on my final year module: Environmental Management in the Global South.

The learning experience of working so closely with the local members of the community was invaluable and because of the relationship that Volunteer Uganda had with the local college, we were able to gain experience that would be difficult to find elsewhere.”



## OLIVIA BEALE

“This was an amazing and invaluable experience. Not only did I have the opportunity to conduct the research, but I was also able to play an integral role in deciding on how to collect this data, analyse it and present the findings.

Conducting research with Volunteer Uganda was an extremely useful and thought-provoking experience.

I am so thrilled I was able to take part in what became the best experience of my life so far, and I hope the research we conducted will have a significant impact on the Kanungu area.”



## UWE STUDENTS MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE



In 2013 undergraduate student Oscar McLaughlin developed an easy-to-use handbook for Water User Committees. He then ran workshops with local communities to introduce the handbook and familiarise users with it.

The first print run ran out almost immediately. Oscar's work has received strongly positive feedback.

"Working for an NGO in Uganda was one of the most daunting, inspirational, sobering, educational and enjoyable things I have ever done in my life," Oscar said.

Above: Local community with Oscar's handbook

*"Oscar made an invaluable contribution to the work of NAPE, was sensitive to community needs and was able to easily blend with the local communities. NAPE looks forward for another opportunity to work with UWE."*

Frank Muramuzi, Executive Director, National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)

## UWE-AFRICA PROGRAMME STUDENTS WIN AWARD



The 2014 IWSN Student Prize (UWE) was awarded to Grace Elliott and Oscar McLaughlin for their final year dissertations which reflected their work and research during their time in Uganda as part of the UWE-Africa Programme.

Every year, the University of the West of England, the University of Arizona and Monash South Africa award prizes to final year students who produce the best water-based dissertation or project.

Bristol Water's Environment Manager Patric Bulmer commended Grace's investigation into the water quality and

treatment habits within households in Kanungu, Western Uganda, saying: "This study of water and health in an African community setting gives much insight into how people use water and the risks posed by human behaviours around water disinfection."

Oscar's dissertation, 'Water Security and Rainwater Harvesting: A Case Study of Rural Uganda' was, said Eiman Karar of the Water Research Commission of South Africa, "An innovative study, based on a strong methodology, of rainwater harvesting and water user groups focusing on the most vulnerable."



## CONTACT US

For more information, including how to apply, please contact:

Lorraine De Souza ([lorraine.desouza@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:lorraine.desouza@uwe.ac.uk))

Room 4Q60 on Frenchay Campus

Tel: 0117 3281564

Website: [www.watersecuritynetwork.org](http://www.watersecuritynetwork.org)

Twitter: [@water\\_network](https://twitter.com/water_network)

The International Water Security Network (IWSN), a global research network led by the UWE, Bristol and funded by Lloyd's Register Foundation, seeks to improve global understanding of the challenges facing water security around the world.

Working with centres of excellence in the USA and South Africa, our crossnational, cross-disciplinary global consortium is devoted to both research (basic and applied) and capacity building (education and training at all levels).

The IWSN is funded by Lloyd's Register Foundation, a charitable foundation helping to protect life and property by supporting engineering-related education, public engagement and the application of research. For more information visit: [www.lrfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lrfoundation.org.uk)

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