

# INITIATE for PhD

## The InternatioNal InTercultural Interdisciplinary wATer nEtwork



Photo: Daniel Siroca (Unsplash)

We are excited to introduce the INITIATE Platform for PhD candidates, a pioneering initiative designed to forge a robust international, intercultural, and interdisciplinary network of PhD scholars focused on water-related challenges. This platform brings together PhD candidates and their mentors from 12 prestigious universities worldwide, including three UNESCO International Centers located in Delft, Dundee, and Montpellier. The INITIATE Platform is dedicated to facilitating meaningful exchanges among PhD candidates confronting similar issues, thereby fostering the development of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary knowledge.

## Types of funding

Successful applicants will benefit from comprehensive support, including:

- Travel and accommodation expenses for platform-related events.
- Subsistence costs to cover daily expenses during on-site platform-related events.
- Visa application fees, ensuring a smooth international experience.

## Objectives

The INITIATE Platform aims to:

- ✓ Offer a decentralized perspective on each candidate's research topic in the short term.
- ✓ Build a durable network for exchanging experiences on water issues and forming consortia to address global water-related changes in the long term.
- ✓ Enhance participants' global career prospects by connecting them with an international network of academics and professionals.

# Call for application

If you're a PhD student registered at one of our partner institutions, proficient in English, and eager to engage in a transformative experience that promises not only to enrich your research but also to expand your professional network, we encourage you to apply. Don't miss this chance to contribute to and benefit from a robust network of peers and professionals dedicated to making significant strides in water management and sustainability.

## Eligibility

Applicants must:

1. Be a registered PhD student at one of the partner institutions:
  - (Australia) Australian National University
  - (Canada) Université Laval
  - (Canada) Université de Sherbrooke
  - (France) Université de Montpellier
  - (Ireland) Dublin City University
  - (Ivory Coast) University Felix Houphouet Boigny
  - (Morocco) University Mohamed 6 Polytechnique
  - (Netherlands) IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
  - (Senegal) University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar
  - (South Africa) Rhodes University
  - (Spain) University of Barcelona
  - (UK) Dundee University
  - (US) University of California Irvine
2. Demonstrate proficiency in English, with French knowledge being an added advantage.
3. Express interest in intercultural and interdisciplinary opportunities.
4. Commit to active participation in the platform.
5. Show willingness to dedicate time to the platform's programs and engage with fellow cohort members.
6. Must be a registered PhD student in any of these institutions

## How to apply

Interested candidates are invited to:

- ✓ Fill out the application questionnaire available on the [application website](#) (hosted by Rhodes University – South Africa), detailing their interest and expectations.
- ✓ Applications must include a letter of support from the candidate's PhD supervisor(s). Please visit our website for further details and access to the application form.

Note: Staff and current students from Rhodes University must login as a Rhodes University User, with their Rhodes username and password. All other users will need to register (first time log in) and log in as "Other Users".

Applications due  
30th April 2024



## Selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- The integration of platform participation into the candidate's future professional plans.
- The candidate's capacity and willingness to dedicate time to the platform and cohort.
- The candidate's potential for effective participation from a group perspective.

## Calendar

Open Call: INITIATE for PhD 2024

- Application Deadline: 30 April 2024
- Selection of Candidates: May 2024
- Results Communication: May/June 2024
- Platform Start: September 2024

## Engagement

Participants are expected to contribute actively to the cohort throughout its activity, extending beyond specific events. This includes participating in summer schools, joint field schools, online seminars, and potential mobility opportunities.

We look forward to receiving your application and potentially welcoming you to the INITIATE for PhD 2024, where you will play a crucial role in shaping the future of water management research and collaboration.

For more information and to apply, please visit our website:

<https://fr.unesco-montpellier.org/platform-initiate-for-phd>.

Apply Now to be part of a transformative journey with the  
INITIATE PhD Exchange Platform!

For further inquiries, please contact:  
Dr. Beatriz Gasparini: [beatriz.gasparini-reis@umontpellier.fr](mailto:beatriz.gasparini-reis@umontpellier.fr)  
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Or reach out to the designated  
contact person for your institution  
listed in the provided material.

# University Contacts

- (Australia) Australian National University: Joseph Guillaume, [Joseph.Guillaume@anu.edu.au](mailto:Joseph.Guillaume@anu.edu.au)
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on Water Systems Dynamics



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