

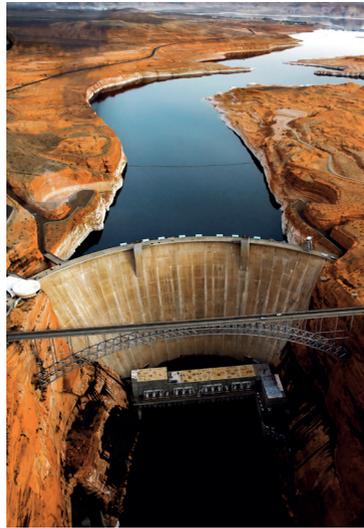
CAS

Certificat de formation continue
Certificate of Advanced Studies

Water Governance: Frameworks and Negotiations

22 June to 3 July 2026

Blended Modular Training Programme



In partnership with



Institute for Environmental Sciences | ISE



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE



Coordination

- **Prof. Christian Bréthaut** (Director), University of Geneva, Director of the Environmental Governance and Territorial Development Hub and Institute, Institute for Environmental Sciences (ISE)
- **Dr Imane Messaoudi-Mattei** (co-director), University of Geneva, Institute for Environmental Sciences (ISE) and Geneva Water Hub, Senior Research Associate

Trainers

Trainers involved in the programme include: university faculty members, researchers, and water experts at the international level.

Programme Contacts

- **Prof. Christian Bréthaut**, Director of the Programme UNESCO Chair in Hydropolitics
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Partnerships

- Swiss Confederation: Global Programme Water, Swiss Agency for Development
- Geneva Water Hub
- UNESCO Chair in Hydropolitics
- Collaborations established with other administrations, companies and universities
- Unparalleled competencies from International Geneva in the field of water and conflict prevention are mobilised within this training programme



Develop skills to address complex issues in a changing environment. Anticipate and innovate in water policy and governance

The management of water resources faces environmental, climatic, political, and economic challenges. In this changing environment, innovative policies should be designed to foster collaboration between states, civil society, and the private sector. To this end, practitioners and decision-makers need to develop new analytical skills.

The Institute for Environmental Sciences (ISE) of the University of Geneva has launched the 9th edition of the certifying Summer School in "Water Governance: Framework and Negotiations". This training programme aims to deliver skills and knowledge based on the latest scientific research applicable in professional contexts. Participants will learn how to use water governance tools to address complex political situations and innovate in the face of risk and uncertainty.

The Summer School, as a blended programme, integrates the MOOC in Water Management and Policy, which is equivalent to one module of the training. This MOOC, delivered to participants via the Coursera platform, provides a general introduction to the course. It must be followed before the start of the Summer School in Geneva. Regarding the completion of the MOOC, participants are required to obtain the certificate of achievement delivered by Coursera. Please note that the cost of this certificate (49 USD) is paid directly to Coursera by participants themselves as they are not covered by the registration fees.

To obtain the Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS), participants are required (1) to complete the MOOC, (2) to attend the two-week Summer School and submit the four final evaluations, and (3) to submit a final thesis.



Audience

This programme is aimed at professionals acting at strategic levels who seek to develop analytical skills in water governance processes. A broad diversity of backgrounds is expected and welcomed: public administrations, international organisations, governmental and non-governmental organisations and private sector.

Objectives

- Identify and analyse the new challenges of water resource management on a global scale, taking into consideration the whole water cycle.
- Analyse hydropolitics and actors' strategies and gain an understanding of trends and functioning of water governance at a global level.
- Provide tools to water professionals to analyse water policy issues and manage the resource in the face of risk and uncertainty.
- Develop work-related skills such as the ability to analyse international legal and institutional frameworks, the related negotiations, and the ability to prevent and regulate water conflicts.
- Develop a community of practitioners in the field of water governance.

Learning Outcomes

- Implement strategies that take into consideration both political and practical issues of water management.
- Use tools to analyse and manage water policy issues in a changing environment (political, economic, environmental).
- Analyse legal frameworks (and their development) for the management of water resources.
- Manage complex situations and implement innovative solutions.
- Communicate effectively on policy and strategic issues regarding water resources.
- Anticipate inter- and intra-sectoral water conflicts and resolve these conflicts with water management tools.

Learning Methodology

Our learning philosophy encourages interaction between theory and practice, inviting trainers and participants alike to share their knowledge and expertise.



To accomplish this, an important aspect is the reduced number of participants that allows each one individually to maximise their involvement. Example-rich debates among water professionals coming from different backgrounds and countries stimulate the acquisition of knowledge and capability on water management.

Thus, the learning methodology involves:

- An effective involvement of participants through open discussions and work in groups.
- A multidisciplinary perspective of international water governance.
- A combination of academic knowledge and field expertise, based on the most recent research and concrete examples in the water and policy domain.
- The development of skills transferable to a variety of professional environments.

Programme Structure

- The CAS programme comprises three components: (1) the MOOC, (2) the Summer School, and (3) the thesis.
- The first component is a distance learning course, the MOOC in Water Management and Policy delivered through the Coursera Platform. Participants require 10 hours approximately to complete it.
- The Summer School, a two-week classroom teaching event, comprises four modules and their respective evaluations. Each module lasts two and a half days. During these intensive and interactive weeks and before some sessions, participants are requested to read background material and prepare practical exercises, either individually or in group.
- The MOOC and the Summer School modules bestow 1 ECTS each.
- The MOOC and the Summer School modules are completed by a thesis that counts for 5 ECTS.
- The teaching language is English.
- The CAS equates to a total of 270 learning hours, i.e. 10 ECTS credits. One ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) corresponds to 25-30 hours of work (teaching and personal study).



Certificate of Advanced Studies in WATER GOVERNANCE: FRAMEWORKS AND NEGOTIATIONS



MOOC in Water Resources Management and Policy

- delivered through the Coursera Platform
- approximately 10 hours to complete it
- 1 ECTS



Summer School in Water Governance

- delivered in classroom format during 2 weeks in Geneva
- 4 modules and their respective evaluations to be submitted one month after the end of The Summer School
- 4 ECTS



Thesis

- topic chosen with the agreement of the CAS Directors
- approximately 15 pages
- portfolio to be submitted 2 months after the end of The Summer School
- 5 ECTS

In the framework of some modules, the module coordinators organise study visits. Participants have therefore the opportunity to meet and discuss with staff from international organisations based in Geneva that address water management challenges. These visits are also an excellent opportunity to build a network within International Geneva. During the two weeks in Geneva, participants also benefit from a dedicated support team. Finally, to encourage networking, the programme management also provides and organises appropriate social activities.

Module 1

MOOC Water Resources Management and Policy

[Online Course](#)

Prof. Christian Bréthaut

Prof. Géraldine Pflieger

- Water as a common-pool resource
- Rules of the resource: uses and circumvention
- Integrated water resource management and the water-food-energy and ecosystem nexus
- Integrated watershed management
- Water as a source of conflict and cooperation



Module 2

Hydropolitics

Geneva

Prof. Christian Bréthaut & Dr Imane Messaoudi-Mattei

- Frameworks for understanding and analysing hydropolitics
- Different perspectives on hydropolitics
- Hydropolitical dynamics around transboundary waters

Module 3

International Water Law: at the Intersection of Different Fields of International Law

Geneva

Dr Mara Tignino

- Sources and principles of international water law
- Linkages between international water law and other areas of international law
- Legal tools to solve water-related disputes

Module 4

Conflict Management Processes

Geneva

Ms Olivia Macharis

- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) techniques
- Focus on the negotiation process
- Skills for a successful negotiation

Module 5

Data, Water and Cooperation

Geneva

Mr Diego Jara

- Role of data and models in water cooperation
- Different actors involved in data collection and sharing
- Interplay between information and (emerging) technologies, knowledge, and power



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Assessment

Modules' final evaluations have to be submitted one month after the end of the Summer School and are graded by the module coordinators. Evaluations consist of written and/or oral tests. The final thesis needs to be submitted within the time stipulated (two months after the Summer School).

Final Thesis

The final project consists of a thesis on the topic chosen with the agreement of programme's Directors (approximately 15 pages). The objective is to produce an in-depth analysis of a specific issue relevant to the participant's – professional and personal– interests, with a critical perspective and a multidisciplinary approach.

Diploma Awarded

The Certificate of Advanced Studies in Water Governance: Frameworks and Negotiations/ *Le certificat de formation continue en Gouvernance de l'eau: structures et négociations* is awarded by the Institute for Environmental Sciences of the University of Geneva, subject to the assessment criteria being met for each module. It corresponds to 10 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) for 95 hours of on-site training.

BIENVENUE

Practical Information

Admission Criteria

- Hold a university master's or a university bachelor's degree, or a bachelor's or master's degree from a university of applied sciences or a degree deemed equivalent;
- Have at least 2 years of professional experience related to the subject of the programme;
- Demonstrate personal motivation to follow the certificate programme by demonstrating how it links to their professional practice
- Have an adequate command of oral and written English, enabling them to follow the CAS courses, read scientific documents, and communicate within the framework of the training activities.

Application

- Deadline: 28 March 2026
- Online: www.unige.ch/formcont/en/courses/CASwatergovernance

Maximum number of participants: 15.

Priority will be given to participants who wish to follow the entire programme. Applications for one or several specific modules are possible.

Fees

- CHF 3,500.– for all modules taken as a package.
Fractioned payment is also possible by arrangement
- CHF 1,250.– per module taken individually

Location

Institute for Environmental Sciences (ISE)
Université de Genève | Boulevard Carl-Vogt 66 | 1205 Geneva
Room CV 002

Schedule

- Monday – Friday | 8:15 – 12:00 / 13:00 – 17:00
- Saturday | 8:15 – 12:15

