



Post Title: Associate Research Officer
Domain: Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Unit
Post Number: 1ITSCPA130TP
Grade: P-1
Organizational Unit: ICTP
Immediate Supervisor: Research Scientist
Primary Location: Trieste, Italy
Recruitment open to: Internal and external candidates
Type of contract: Project Appointment – 12 months
Deadline (*midnight Trieste time*): **14-OCT-2026**

UNESCO Core Values: Commitment to the Organization, Integrity, Respect for Diversity, Professionalism

OVERVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE POST

Founded in 1964 by the late Nobel Laureate Abdus Salam and located in Trieste (Italy), the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) seeks to accomplish its mandate by providing scientists from developing countries with the continuing education and skills that they need to enjoy long and productive careers.

Under the direct supervision of the Research Scientist (Head of the STI Unit), the incumbent will support project activities related to two extra-budgetary projects: the UNEP-ICTP project "TRACT", funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and – for 20% of his/her time – the UNESCO project "FRIEND-NILE", funded by the Flemish UNESCO Science Trust Fund (FUST). Both projects aim to strengthen environmental and water-resources monitoring through low-cost weather stations and IoT/wireless technologies, with a strong focus on capacity building of local technical and scientific staff.

Essential responsibilities include:

- **Contribute to TRACT (Maldives).** Support project Output 2 (Strengthened observations, monitoring, modelling and impact-based forecasting) and Sub-activity 2.1.4 (IoT and wireless technologies) of the GCF-funded UNEP-ICTP project "TRACT – Toward Risk-Aware and Climate-resilient communities", deploying low-cost weather stations, terrestrial gateways and water-level sensors — including their photovoltaic powering, masts and civil works — across the Maldives.
- **Contribute to FRIEND-NILE (Nile Basin, 20% of time).** Support project Output 1 (in particular 1.1, 1.3 and 1.4) of the FUST-funded UNESCO project "FRIEND-NILE", deploying similar monitoring equipment across selected Nile Basin countries, managing datasets and services through IHP-WINS, and piloting a Digital Twin for at least one sub-basin in collaboration with the IHP AI Task Force.
- **Build local technical capacity.** Design and deliver training workshops on IoT and wireless technologies for environmental monitoring, building the capacity of local technical and scientific staff in the Maldives and in the Nile Basin countries.
- **Manage project activities.** Assist in managing project activities, including regular reporting and communication with stakeholders, and maintain contacts with UNEP, national partners and the UNESCO IHP AI Task Force.
- **Document deployments.** Document the technical details of all deployments and share the documentation with local stakeholders.
- **Conduct applied research.** Conduct research on the resilience and effectiveness of the deployed technical solutions, contributing to scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals.

COMPETENCIES

A successful candidate will be required to demonstrate the following competencies:

- Building Partnership.
- Teamwork.
- Client orientation.
- Communication.
- Creativity and Innovation.
- Technological Awareness.
- Result Based Management and Result Based Budgeting.
- Promoting Organizational Change and Development.
- UNESCO's Mission, Strategy, Leadership (managerial competency).
- Managing Performance (managerial competency).
- Empowering Others (managerial competency).

For detailed information please consult the [UNESCO Competency Framework](https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/competency_framework_e.pdf)
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REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- Master's degree in Physics, Engineering or Computer Science

WORK EXPERIENCE

- At least one year of relevant experience, particularly within the context of environmental or water resources management, preferably in an international environment, and experience working in a multidisciplinary research environment.

SKILLS/COMPETENCIES

- Proven ability to coordinate technical platforms, ensuring operational management, data governance, and strategic development
- Proficiency in one of the major programming languages (e.g., Python, JavaScript), with hands-on experience in data automation, geospatial analysis, and database management
- Experience in project coordination and stakeholder engagement, working with intergovernmental organizations, research institutions, and technical partners
- Ability to plan and conduct training programs for diverse audiences, including government agencies, research institutions, and international organizations

LANGUAGES

- Excellent knowledge of English.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

SKILLS/COMPETENCIES

- Hands-on experience with IoT and wireless sensor networks, embedded systems and field deployment of monitoring equipment

LANGUAGES

- Knowledge of Italian
- Knowledge of another official UNESCO language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish)

BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENTS

UNESCO's salaries consist of a basic salary and other benefits which may include if applicable: 30 days annual leave, family allowance, medical insurance, pension plan etc.

For more information in benefits and entitlements, please consult [ICSC website](#) and [UNESCO's career website](#).

MORE INFORMATION

Please note that all candidates must complete an on-line application and provide complete and accurate information. No modifications can be made to the application submitted.

The evaluation of candidates is based on the criteria in the vacancy notice, and may include tests and/or assessments, as well as a competency-based interview.

Candidates must use the UNESCO's online application system which is accessible through the following links:

For current UNESCO fixed-term staff members: UNESCO Intranet > Tools > HR Apps > [Careers](#). If you are working remotely, you should connect to Careers portal through connect.unesco.org

For all other candidates: <https://careers.unesco.org>

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