



IHO File No. S1/3023 & CBSC-1

CIRCULAR LETTER 34/2024
11 September 2024

**MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAMME IN HYDROGRAPHIC SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (USA) SPONSORED BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (13th Course, August 2025 - August 2026)

Reference: [IHO CL 05/2024 dated 2 February 2024](#) - *Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Science at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA) sponsored by the Republic of Korea - Selection of Candidates (12th course)*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Following the selection announced in the Reference, two students were successfully enrolled in the FIG/IHO/ICA recognized Category "A" Master of Science in Hydrographic Science Programme at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), USA, funded by the Republic of Korea (ROK). The IHO Secretariat is now pleased to call for nominations for the **13th ROK-funded course at the USM** that will take place from early August 2025 to early August 2026. Further details of the course are provided in Annex A.
2. The Republic of Korea has provided funds through the IHO Capacity Building Programme that can be made available for up to **two students** to attend the course. Financial support will cover almost all the students' expenses, including course fees, travel from and back to the respective countries, accommodation, medical insurance, books and a moderate living allowance.
3. Member States are invited to consider nominating ONE suitable candidate, taking into account the requirements and important aspects presented in paragraphs 4 and 5, who will benefit from this training and will thereby assist the nominating country in developing its hydrographic capabilities.
4. Nominated candidates **MUST** meet the following criteria:
 - a. Be employed by a national hydrographic office, a maritime authority or a related national agency in the nominating country;
 - b. Have a university diploma (equivalent to the US Undergraduate Diploma) in a hydrography-related area (hydrography, cartography, ocean sciences, engineering, etc.) with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above, out of a maximum of 4.0;
 - c. Provide evidence of a good standard of English, both written and spoken, with reasonable technical English via TOEFL iBT or IELTS:
 - TOEFL iBT test score must be 80 or higher and the official test scores must be received from the testing agency (TOEFL ETS code of USM is 1479)
 - If IELTS taken instead, score must be 6.5 or higher
 - Candidates from English-speaking countries or those who received their bachelor's degree from an accredited English-speaking university may be exempted from taking the English test;

- d. Have a high standard in mathematics, physics and computing and meet the minimum requirements of the Standards of Competence for Category "A" Hydrographic Surveyors ([IHO Publication S-5A](#)) regarding the following Basic Subjects:
 - B1 Mathematics, Statistics, Theory of Observations
 - B2 Information and Communication Technology
 - B3 Physics
 - Matlab is a key tool for the programme and the USM will strive to deliver an introductory course once the students arrive on the Campus. However, students are encouraged to seek qualification in Matlab before the beginning of the programme;
 - e. Comply with the application requirements to USM presented in the following link: <https://www.usm.edu/graduate-programs/hydrographic-science.php>
5. Candidates and nominating authorities should also carefully consider the following very important aspects of the process:
- a. Funding support will be available for the selected student alone; no funds will be provided for family members or dependents;
 - b. Test fees, visa and other administrative expenses must be paid by the student or the student's national sponsoring authority. These expenses are not covered by the IHO;
 - c. Incomplete submissions, including self-motivated nomination, will not be accepted by the Selection Panel.
6. The application using the template Annex B should be prepared in accordance with [Capacity Building Procedure 7](#) and submitted with the documents specified below **no later than 31 December 2024 (CET)** by e-mail (cl-ic@iho.int with copy to adcc@iho.int, cba@iho.int, pok@iho.int and infokhoa@korea.kr), or preferably using the IHO Online Form System by accessing the following link https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/cl34_24
- a. Statement by the nominating authority defined in 4.a, provided in Annex C;
 - b. A curriculum vitae (in English, including a photo) and any related documents;
 - c. A copy of the university diploma;
 - d. A copy of the university transcript (educational record) with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above, out of a maximum of 4.0;
 - e. TOEFL iBT test result with the score of 80 or higher (If IELTS is taken instead, the score should be equal to or higher than 6.5);
 - f. A personal letter stating goals and interests (in English);
 - g. Three letters of recommendation.
7. A Selection Panel, comprising representatives from the IHO Secretariat and from the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (KHOA), in liaison with the Hydrographic Science Program Coordinator of the USM, will select students and reserves for the 2025-2026 Course. Selected candidates will be informed of their selection by 31 January 2025. Member States will also be informed of the results of the selection process shortly thereafter.

8. Selected candidates will subsequently be required to apply to the USM using the following online system. A non-refundable application fee of USD 60.00 will be due to complete the application. Any IHO Applicant who is not accepted by the USM will consequently be replaced by one of the reserves, if possible.

Application: [Graduate Admissions](#) → [Application Portal](#) (Registration required).

Any application and submission of required documentation to the USM before the decision of the Selection Panel will not be considered.

9. The timetable for the application, selection and processing of students for the 2025-2026 Course is provided in Annex D. Candidates and their nominating authorities should carefully note the tight timetable and the need to meet the various deadlines.

10. The IHO Secretariat would like to reiterate its appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its generous support of the IHO's role and objectives.

On behalf of the Secretary-General

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luigi Sinapi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Luigi SINAPI
IHO Director

Annexes:

- A. Summary of Category "A" Master of Science in Hydrographic Science at the USM
- B. Candidate application form
IHO Online Form System link: https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/cl34_24
- C. Statement by the National Hydrographer or Appropriate National Authority
- D. Timetable for the selection of candidates for the 2025-2026 Course

**SUMMARY OF CATEGORY "A" MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HYDROGRAPHIC SCIENCE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI**

August 2025 – August 2026 (exact dates to be defined)

Purpose

The purpose of the M.S. program in Hydrographic Science is to provide students with technical and practical expertise in advanced hydrographic methods and standards that will enable them to assume leadership roles in using modern techniques in academic, government, military, and private organizations engaged in hydrographic activities.

Courses

This is an accelerated one-year track, with two periods of classroom lectures and practical exercises and one period of application, combining for about 50 continuous weeks of study.

Curriculum

One Year Degree Programme	
Fall Semester	
HYD 600	Classical Geodesy
HYD 607	Oceanography for Hydrographers
HYD 608	Practical Hydrographic Science
HYD 609	Nautical Science
HYD 620	Math Concepts for Hydrographers
MAR 668	Applied Ocean Acoustics
Spring Semester	
HYD 601	Hydrographic Data Management
HYD 604	Kinematic Positioning
HYD 605	Applied Bathymetry
HYD 611	Remote Sensing for Hydrographers
HYD 612	Water Levels
Summer Semester	
HYD 603	Law & Policy for Hydrographic Science
HYD 606	Nautical Cartography and GIS
HYD 610	Hydrographic Science Field Project

More information about the programme is available at:

<https://www.usm.edu/graduate-programs/hydrographic-science.php>

**IHO CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT
CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM**

(IHO Online Form System https://IHO.formstack.com/forms/cl34_24)

1. Project: 2025 CBWP (Activity P-01)	
Type of project:	Course
Name of the project:	IHO-ROK Category "A" Hydrographic Programme
Venue:	USA - Mississippi - University of Southern Mississippi (USM)
Period:	August 2025 - August 2026
2. Personal information (filled by applicant)	
Title:	
Family name:	
First name:	
Nationality:	
Date of birth:	
Place of birth:	
3. Address direction (filled by applicant)	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
e-mail	
4. Present position and description of duties (filled by applicant)	
<u>Describe here your current position in the organization and a short description of your duties (maximum 5 lines)</u>	
5. Experience in Hydrography and Cartography (filled by applicant)	
<u>Describe here your past experience in Hydrography and Cartography, with emphasis in the ones related to the project (maximum 7 lines)</u>	
6. Candidate's future plans for application of the training/participation (filled by applicant)	
<u>Describe here your future plans for application of the training or participation in technical events (maximum 5 lines)</u>	
7. Date and signature of the applicant	

[Click here to download this template \(in English\)](#)

**STATEMENT BY THE NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHER
or
APPROPRIATE NATIONAL AUTHORITY**

The **Hydrographer** (or type here if not the Hydrographer) of type here the name of the country requests the IHO to consider this Application Form and confirms that Mrs/Mr type here the name of the candidate is fully aware of the following conditions which apply to this application:

1. The candidate (if selected) once the training has been successfully completed, he/she will continue to work in the field of the training received.
2. The IHO Capacity Building Fund will support the items so agreed and indicated in the relevant Circular Letter or Invitation Letter.
3. Insurances, visa and any other expenses are not covered by the IHO Capacity Building Fund. They are the responsibility of the institution submitting the application.
4. Should a selected candidate not be able to participate in the course for any reason he/she will be replaced by a candidate from the waiting list and **NOT** by an applicant from the same country.
5. Passport and Visa are the responsibility of the applicant or the applicant's administration.
6. Where the IHO Secretariat is informed less than one month before the start of the course that a selected candidate is unable to participate in the course, his/her sponsoring institution will be required to refund the IHO Capacity Building Fund any expenses already incurred by the IHO.

Date:	National Authority (Position):
Name and Signature:	

[Click here to download this template \(in English\)](#)

TIMETABLE FOR SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE CATEGORY "A" MASTER OF
SCIENCE
IN HYDROGRAPHIC SCIENCE AT THE USM (2025-2026 COURSE)

Deadline	Action	Responsible	Observation/Status
20/12/2024	Complete required documentation for application including TOEFL iBT (or IELTS) tests	Candidates	
31/12/2024	Submit candidate application to the IHO Secretariat	Nominating Authority	
15/01/2025	IHO-ROK Selection Panel meeting	IHO Secretariat, ROK	Date to be confirmed
31/01/2025	Issue notification letter to the selected candidates and request for the affidavit	IHO Secretariat	
05/02/2025	Send signed affidavit to the IHO Secretariat (digital copy via e-mail)	Selected Candidates	
07/02/2025	Issue letter of financial support for the Selected Candidates	IHO Secretariat	
07/02/2025	Issue Circular Letter for selection results	IHO Secretariat	
28/02/2025	Finish online application to the USM	Selected Candidates	
04/04/2025	Issue invitation letter (I-20) for F-1 visa to Accepted Students	USM	
16/05/2025	Send copy of visa and passport to the IHO Secretariat	Accepted Students	
30/05/2025	Provide air tickets to the Accepted Students	IHO Secretariat	
01/07/2025	Transfer the funds to the USM account	IHO Secretariat	
01/08/2025	Provide the Accepted Students with start-up cash for settling in	IHO Secretariat	
08/08/2025	Report to the USM Campus in the USA	Accepted Students	Date to be confirmed