

IHO File No. S1/3023 & CBSC-1

CIRCULAR LETTER 43/2025
11 November 2025

**MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAMME IN HYDROGRAPHIC SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (USA) SPONSORED BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (14th Course, August 2026 - August 2027)

Reference: IHO CL 06/2025 dated 24 January 2025 - *Master of Science Programme in Hydrographic Science at the University of Southern Mississippi (USA) sponsored by the Republic of Korea - Selection of Candidates (13th 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 **14th ROK-funded course at the USM** that will take place from early August 2026 to early August 2027. 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 written and spoken English, including adequate technical English proficiency, through one of the tests listed in point 6.e, meeting the minimum scores specified. 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
 - Python is a key tool for the programme and the USM will strive to deliver an introductory course once the students arrive to the Campus. However, students are encouraged to seek qualification in Python 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 11 January 2026 (CET)** by e-mail (cl-lc@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/cl43_25

- 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. Proof of English language proficiency by meeting one of the following minimum score requirements:
 - TOEFL score of 71 (IBT) or higher
 - IELTS (Academic) Overall 6.0 or higher
 - SAT verbal 480, or ACT English 20 or higher
 - Cambridge English B2 First, C1 Advanced, or C2 Proficiency

- PTE (Academic) Overall 54 or higher
- iTEP (Academic) Overall 4.0 or higher
- 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 2026-2027 Course. Selected candidates will be informed of their selection by 30 January 2026. 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 2026-2027 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,



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/cl43_25
- C. Statement by the National Hydrographer or Appropriate National Authority
- D. Timetable for the selection of candidates for the 2026-2027 Course

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

August 2026 – August 2027 (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/cl43_25)

1. Project: 2026 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 2026 - August 2027
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 (2026-2027 COURSE)

Deadline	Action	Responsible	Observation/Status
19/12/2025	Complete required documentation for application including TOEFL iBT (or IELTS) tests	Candidates	
11/01/2026	Submit candidate application to the IHO Secretariat	Nominating Authority	
21/01/2026	IHO-ROK Selection Panel meeting	IHO Secretariat, ROK	Date to be confirmed
30/01/2026	Issue notification letter to the selected candidates and request for the affidavit	IHO Secretariat	
06/02/2026	Send signed affidavit to the IHO Secretariat (digital copy via e-mail)	Selected Candidates	
09/02/2026	Issue letter of financial support for the Selected Candidates	IHO Secretariat	
10/02/2026	Issue Circular Letter for selection results	IHO Secretariat	
28/02/2026	Finish online application to the USM	Selected Candidates	
03/04/2026	Issue invitation letter (I-20) for F-1 visa to Accepted Students	USM	
15/05/2026	Send copy of visa and passport to the IHO Secretariat	Accepted Students	
29/05/2026	Provide air tickets to the Accepted Students	IHO Secretariat	
01/07/2026	Transfer the funds to the USM account	IHO Secretariat	
31/07/2026	Provide the Accepted Students with start-up cash for settling in	IHO Secretariat	
07/08/2026	Report to the USM Campus in the USA	Accepted Students	Date to be confirmed