



IHO File No. S3/2620

CIRCULAR LETTER 13/2026
02 March 2026

**IHO-IOC NIPPON FOUNDATION / GEBCO TRAINING PROJECT CALL FOR
APPLICATIONS FOR 23rd GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN OCEAN MAPPING**

Dear Hydrographer,

1. This Circular Letter is to advise Member States that nominations are being sought for the 23rd course of the IHO-IOC-Nippon Foundation / GEBCO Training Program leading to a Graduate Certificate in Ocean Mapping at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), USA. The 23rd course will begin in late August 2026, **pending funding to be confirmed in April by the Nippon Foundation**. Students will undertake an intensive 12-month period of lectures, practical laboratory and on-the-water projects, secondments to relevant laboratories and cruises on research or survey ships. In addition to the teaching staff from the university, visiting experts will present specialist lectures.
2. The course syllabus covers integrated seabed mapping systems and the fundamentals of ocean mapping, acoustics, positioning, survey design, uncertainty management, geological and physical oceanography, seafloor characteristics, structure of ocean basins, data analysis and integration, and surface interpolation. Students may also select additional courses from a range of electives.
3. The language of instruction is English, and candidates must demonstrate the capability to undertake graduate level studies in English to the satisfaction of the University of New Hampshire. Candidates must be aware that this is an intensive course, even for students whose first language is English.
4. The minimum academic standard for admission is a relevant four-year degree in a related field.
5. Member States are invited to consider nominating suitable candidates for the Graduate Certificate Course in Ocean Bathymetry from among their nationals. Nominating authorities should consider:
 - a. The level and subject of degree(s) held by nominee.
 - b. Previous experience in ocean bathymetry.
 - c. Nominee's ability in English.
 - d. Future opportunities to work on bathymetric projects and the likelihood of the nominee continuing to work in related subjects.
 - e. Personal motivation.

6. A description of the course, eligibility for entry, financial details, schedule, course content, contact information and a downloadable application form are available at: <https://www.gebco.net/training/>.
7. Applications must be received by 19 April 2026.

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
Director