



SUSTAINABLE CITIES COURSE 2016 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

OAS Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC)

The Organization of American States (OAS), through the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE) and the Department of Sustainable Development, through the OAS Partnerships Program for Education and Training (PAEC), are offering scholarships to qualified candidates of the Americas to participate in the course below.

PROGRAMS:	Sustainable Cities
MODALITY:	Onsite, Jamaica
LANGUAGE:	English
DURATION:	4 days
DEADLINES:	Scholarship application: October 1, 2016
START DATE	December 6, 2016
END DATE	December 9, 2016
BENEFITS:	The OAS will cover a round trip ticket, USD 1,350 maximum, tuition fees, health insurance, administration fees, study material and coffee break.

1. THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

GS/OAS is the central and permanent organ of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Through its Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE), GS/OAS supports OAS member states in creating policies and executing programs that promote human capacity development at all educational levels. By enabling formative opportunities to citizens, DHDEE strengthens democratic values and security under the framework of regional integration. DHDEE does this: (i) by supporting the efforts of OAS member states to improve the quality of and equity in education; and (ii) by assisting the citizens of the Americas in realizing their full potential by giving them access to knowledge and skills through training that improves the standard of living for individuals, families and communities in the region.

The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) supports OAS member States in the design and implementation of policies, programs and projects oriented to integrate environmental priorities with poverty alleviation, and socio-economic development goals. Translating sustainable development and environmental protection goals into concrete actions, DSD supports the execution of multiple country projects in such diverse areas as Integrated Water Management, Energy and Climate Change Mitigation, Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation, Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management and Environmental Law, Policy and Good Governance. The Department also supports transparency and Public Participation, as practical ingredients of good governance.

2. ABOUT THE COURSE

The objective of the Course is to provide theoretical and practical knowledge on the different elements that contribute to the development of sustainable cities to government officials and members of civil society involved in planning processes and urban development.

The course will include theoretical presentations that combine the professor's input with student participation. Case studies will be presented and discussed in order to develop practical skills regarding the issues discussed. [A web platform](#) will be created for each module providing background readings and material that students will prepare in order to enhance learning and assimilation of the program content. The course will combine theory with practical exercises in which the students will experience the content of each module applied to real life situations through lectures, readings, field trips group exercises and discussion. The course will close with a field trip in which students will be able to come in contact with the operations and functioning of green and energy efficient buildings in Jamaica. The Sustainable Cities Course is part of the "[*Sustainable Communities in Central America and Caribbean Initiative*](#)" supported by the Permanent Mission of the United States to the OAS.

Course Content:

The Course will be presented in 7 Modules with a policymaker's roundtable and field visits to several case studies.

Modules:

1. Module I: Land Use and Urban Planning

- Concepts and frameworks for approaching urban sustainability and planning;
- Ecology and ecosystem science and geospatial technologies as applied to urban areas: cities as eco-systems, the relationship between the urban;
- The natural environment, including urban open space, biodiversity, and ecosystem services;
- Squatter Management: Reducing informal settlements for safer construction and planned city growth;
- Promotion of the quality of life in cities and communities by increasing the available public spaces ;
- Lessons Learned from a Local Sustainable Development Plan

2. Module II: Sustainable Tourism

- Improving the tourism product by increasing sustainability initiatives;
- From Farm to Table - Improving the cooperation between farmers and hospitality ;
- Eco Tourism;
- Community Tourism;

3. Module III: City Mobility and Transport

- Relationship between land use and transportation;
- Plans for the railroad redevelopment;
- Public Transit (brt) and Non-Motorized Transportation;
- Inner city transport - walking and biking options for sustainability;

4. Module IV: Crime and Safety

- Community policing for increased confidence in law enforcement
- Crime reducing initiatives
- Integrated City services – The new Integrated Operations Centre

5. Module V: Environmental Sustainability

- Waste Management, Recycling and Water Resource Management
- Resource conservation through effective waste management, reuse, recycling and support for sustainable products and services;
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency in the context of Sustainable Cities
- Community-based initiatives to advance the use and adoption of clean, renewable energy solutions, and enhance energy efficiency;
- Photovoltaic (PV) Based Electrification and increased accessibility to solar equipment; and

6. Module VI: Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

- Sustainable Evacuation and Planning/Disaster Risk Management;
- Managing risks to the coastal communities of Montego Bay from natural hazards in the coastal zone and vulnerability to climate change

7. Module VII: Employment and Education

- Creating vibrant local economic development from sustainable initiatives
- Identifying major growth sectors early to improve competitiveness.
- Courses that matter. Creating employable graduates

Field Visit to several case studies:

1. Urban Greening with the Botanic Garden and National Parks;
2. Advances in Transit;
3. LEED and other certified building Frameworks;
4. Sewage and Storm Water Management;
5. Air Pollution Control, Walkability, and Bicycle; and
6. Informal Settlement upgrading and Resettlement.

Benefits of participating in the Course:

Course participants will strengthen their critical thinking and decision making skills which will enable them to set specific goals, identify constraints, generate alternatives and evaluate and chose the best alternative. Given that the course is based on the interlinks between the different systems that conform a city, the students will strengthen their reasoning skills identifying the principles underlying the relationship between two or more elements, recognizing problems and devising and implementing a plan of action. Other cross cutting competencies and skills will be strengthened including the use of resources and using efficient learning techniques to acquire and apply new knowledge.

The Course will provide a complete overview of the set of systems involved in a sustainable urban setting as well as the main elements required for successful sustainable cities initiatives in their local context. Likewise, course participants will be able to network with experts from leading agencies in the field of urban development that could result in new partnerships and projects.

Participant's Profile:

Interested participant should have:

- a. A bachelor's degree in one of the following fields: Economics, Engineering, Architecture, Urban Planning or Environmental Sciences; and
- b. At least 3 years of experience in an area related to the Course content in the public sector or at a civil society organization.

Contact Information:

For more specific questions about the Course please contact Ms. Luisa Neira at lneira@oas.org

For more information on the Sustainable Cities program, please view here:

<http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/Biodiversity/default1.asp>

3. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply for this scholarship opportunity, you must submit a [Scholarship Application](#) through the OAS Fellowship Management System. You will be required to upload the following documents where indicated in the application form:



Please note the following:

- a) **Please note that all documents must be in English or officially translated to English.**
- b) Students whose native language is not **English** will be required to submit **one** of the following as proof of English proficiency:
 - An official transcript verifying completion of studies in an English speaking university in the last five years;
 - A test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a score of 570 or higher for the paper based test, 230 for computer-based test, or an internet-based TOEFL (IBT) score of at least 89; OR
 - Other standard English proficiency certificates
 - The date stated on the TOEFL or IELTS certificate must be within two years of your proposed start date.
- c) Proof that you have **sufficient funds** (estimated at USD \$1,250) to cover accommodation, meals, local transportation and other costs not covered by the scholarship by including **one, or a combination,** of the following documents with your scholarship application:
 - a copy of a bank statement or bank letter;
 - a letter from an employer showing a monthly or yearly salary;
 - a letter showing a student loan or additional scholarship(s), grants, financial aid.
- d) The **letter of recommendation** should be provided by a university professor, previous employer or current employer that includes: the letterhead of the University /Company, the professor's/employer's position within the University/Company, date and signature.
- e) You are required to write a **one page case study** on a specific urban development issue or project in your country to be presented at the Course. The case study must be written in English.
- f) You are required to write **one essay**. The essay must be written in English.

Essay⁺

Describe how participating in this course will directly impact and enhance your professional skills in your current job position or future career.

⁺Please ignore the essay questions in the scholarship application form as they are not relevant to this course of study.

OAS Contact Information:

For questions about this scholarship opportunity, please contact Ms. Elisa Granadillo at egranadillo@oas.org.

4. SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

PROGRAMS:	Sustainable Cities
SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS	The OAS will cover a round trip ticket, USD 1,350 maximum, tuition fees, health insurance, administration fees, study material and coffee break.
FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF APPLICANTS	Participants will be responsible for lodging and local transportation, which is estimated at USD \$1,250 per participant.
COMMENTS	Participants will be required to complete an evaluation form at the end of the Course.

5. Scholarship Eligibility Requirements:

To be considered for this scholarship opportunity, an applicant must:



6. Scholarship Selection Criteria

- The merits and overall credentials of the candidate, including his/her academic and professional background;
- Geographical distribution of the applicants, taking into account the greater needs of the smaller and relatively less developed economies;
- Applicants whose proposals portray the highest potential for impact upon return to their countries of origin; and
- Gender diversity.

7. Duties and Responsibilities of the Student:

- The scholarship will be formally awarded only after the selected awardees have signed an OAS Acceptance Form, in which the awardees formally accept the scholarship and agree to its terms and conditions.
- Refrain from activities that are inconsistent with the status of an OAS Scholarship recipient, abiding by the regulations referred to in this Acceptance Form.
- Comply with the provisions indicated in the "Financial responsibilities of awardees."
- Commitment to return to country of origin or legal residence in one of the OAS member states. Failure to comply with this commitment, the GS/OAS could seek reimbursement for the total value of the scholarship awarded.

[APPLY NOW!](#)

For more information: www.oas.org/scholarships