**2017 ProSPER.Net Young Researchers’ School**

**‘Water Security for Sustainable Development in a Changing Climate’**

**International University – Viet Nam National University Ho Chi Minh City**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**

**6 to 15 March, 2017**

**Application**

**Applications:** Applications are openfor PhD students from ProSPER.Net member universities to participate in an interdisciplinary intensive Young Researchers’ School on ‘Water Security for Sustainable Development in a Changing Climate’.

**Resource Persons:** Sustainability experts from both the host university as well as United Nations University - Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability will coordinate lectures, group work, and other activities.

**Aims:** Participants in the Young Researchers’ School will:

* Develop advanced knowledge and skills in sustainability research and practice, with a special focus on water security and supply, urban flood prevention infrastructure, and water resource management;
* Develop in-depth research design and planning skills;
* Enhance transferable skills on communication, presentation and group work;
* Become part of a network of sustainability researchers in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Study Theme:** While access to and management of water resources has always been a critical component of civilizations around the world, two emerging phenomena are set to significantly impact how we use and allocate water. On one hand, human populations are increasingly shifting from rural to urban lifestyles – meaning that cities must maintain access to water supplies for growing urban populations. On the other hand, a changing climate is affecting the natural water cycle upon which human society is critically dependent on, with dire consequences for human populations. The Young Researchers’ School will provide the participants with the opportunity to explore different dimensions of sustainability issues related to the current situation of water security within Vietnam, specifically how policies and projects related to water management and flood prevention may provide integrative solutions to tackle sustainable development challenges. Field trips related to specific projects by different stakeholders in the region will focus on how research can be applied to promote sustainable practices. Along with a series of lectures by resource persons, participants will be introduced to sustainability challenges related to water management faced by local communities and the innovative approaches that can be used to address these. Based on these lessons, students will develop individual solutions and find ways to promote sustainable solutions.

While the programme will focus on water resources, students interested in any topic related to sustainable development are encouraged to apply, and will receive mentoring on the development of their own thesis proposal.

**Tasks** will include:

* Small group work on research proposal development, integrating lecture and fieldtrip topics into proposal that addresses sustainable development challenge in the region
* Individual presentation development, using three minute thesis presentation to help students with their own thesis development
* Active participation in all lectures, group work, and field trips, engaging with resource persons and fellow students

**Other activities** will include:

* Life after PhD panel, to help participants realize the potential of their PhD course
* Research communication activities

As well as a focus on the natural and social sciences as they relate to these sustainability issues, the Young Researchers’ School will engage students in the joint investigation of sustainability issues and also help them develop the important research skills needed for interdisciplinary problem-based research. Workshops at the Young Researchers’ School will focus on research skills and strategies for effective research design and planning, including student research plan presentations.

**Selection Criteria:** Participants will be selected on the basis of written application according to the following criteria:

* Currently enrolled in a PhD programme in a ProSPER.Net member university.
* Chosen a research topic for their PhD thesis work
* High level of understanding of written and spoken English language.
* An advanced understanding of sustainability and its relevance to their own research.
* Demonstrated ability to work in a team environment and contribute to community service activities.

**Scholarships:** A limited number of scholarships are available. The scholarships cover all costs of the Young Researchers’ School tuition, a round-trip economy class ticket, accommodation (based on two participants sharing one room), visa processing fee (if applicable) and most meals. Travel insurance is mandatory and is the participant’s responsibility to insure with participant’s own cost.

**2017 ProSPER.Net Young Researchers’ School**

**Application Form**

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| **Family name:** | |  | | | | | | | |
| **First and other names:** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Date of Birth (day/month/year):** | | | | | | | | | **Gender:** |
| **Email:** | |  | | | | | | | |
| **University:** | |  | | | | | | | |
| **Department:** | |  | | | | | | | |
| **Name of University ProSPER.Net Representative:**  **Email:**  **Telephone:** | | | | | | |  | | |
| **Need of scholarship: Yes / No** | | | | | | | **University Certification**  I certify that the information provided by the applicant is true.  Signature of University ProSPER.Net Representative  Date | | |
| **Please inform the stage of your Ph.D. studies (1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year...):** | | | | | | |
| **Please indicate your English level ability from 1 to 5** | | | | | | |
|  | **Poor Excellent** | | | | | |
| **Reading** | **1** | | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **Writing** | **1** | | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
| **How does your PhD research relate and contribute to sustainable development? (maximum 500 words)** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Demonstrated ability to work in a team environment and experience in community development/service activities (maximum 500 words)** | | | | | | | | | |
| **What is your vision to build a sustainable society? (maximum 500 words)** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Research publications and/or presentations (conferences and dissertation defense, etc)** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Have you ever participated in the ProSPER.Net YRS and/or Leadership Programme (LP)?**  **No / Yes (if yes, Which programme? Which year? )** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Certification**  I certify that the answers to the above questions are true. | | | | | | | | | |
| **Signature** | | | | | | | | **Date** | |

This form should be completed and emailed as an attachment ***in Word or PDF format***, together with a ***recommendation letter*** from the direct supervisor to ProSPER.Net Secretariat ([yrs@unu.edu](mailto:yrs@unu.edu)) **by 11:59 pm, 16 January 2017 (JST).**