

HYDRO NATION SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

Key Lines to Take

Top Lines

The Scottish Government has established the Hydro Nation Scholars Programme to support its vision of Scotland as the world's first 'Hydro Nation'.

Scotland the Hydro Nation recognises the importance and value of water within Scotland's national and international identity and manages its water environment to the best advantage, employing its knowledge and expertise effectively at home and internationally in ways which contribute to a flourishing low-carbon economy.

Lines to Take

- **The Hydro Nation Scholars Programme** will play a key role in supporting the overarching Hydro Nation strategy currently set out in the Hydro Nation Prospectus by:
 - developing understanding of how and where best to develop the value of Scotland's water resources;
 - focusing on enhancing Scottish capacity in areas of existing research excellence;
 - providing new research and insights where there are gaps related to water resources in Scotland;
 - developing research and insights of significance to global water issues; and
 - contributing to the high-level policy debate on domestic and global water issues.
- The Programme is managed on behalf of the Scottish Government by CREW, Scotland's Centre of Expertise for Waters. The Hydro Nation Scholars Programme funds postgraduate research projects aligned to the strategic priorities of the Hydro Nation Agenda.
- Full funding is provided for four years for up to seven PhD studentships (of which, two may be 'overseas' students) which are hosted within Scottish Universities and Research Institutes.
- Scholars benefit from specialised programmes provided under the auspices of the Hydro Nation Graduate School managed by CREW, and include periods of research at a water-related institution, such as Scottish Water, The Scottish Government, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Water Industry Commission for Scotland or industry.
- Four scholars were appointed in the first year of the Programme, three appointed in 2014/15, six in academic year 2015/2016, five in academic year (2016/2017) and in this academic year (2017/2018) two were appointed.

Hydro Nation

- Scotland as a Hydro Nation will:
 - develop the value of its naturally abundant water resources;
 - build on and improve the productivity of its water industry, in particular through the establishment of the Hydro Nation Water Innovation Service to help bring new technologies through to the market;
 - capitalise on the international market potential of water and respond to the immense water challenges that population growth and climate change bring, increasing our international presence and profile, working to improve global water governance;
 - ensure that the environment in Scotland is protected and enhanced through the good management of Scotland's water and in line with key legislative requirements including eg the Urban Wastewater Directive, Drinking Water Quality Regulations, the Water Framework Directive and the Water Resources (Scotland) Act 2013;
 - aim to make water an energy asset through greater water efficiency, reducing the energy we use to manage our water and, critically, by generating more energy from water;
 - contribute to the global water debate, increasing our profile as a Hydro Nation.
- All this is backed up with practical programmes on knowledge exchange, innovation support and a focus on continuing improvement in the performance of the public water utility.
- There is an undeniable case for water being a sector with growth potential to support Scotland's low-carbon economy.
- Water is a vital part of Scotland's natural capital and one that the Scottish Government means to develop for the benefit for all.

Background

Scotland the Hydro Nation builds on the statutory duty placed on Scottish Ministers under the Water Resources (Scotland) Act 2013 to develop the value of Scotland's water resources, viewing them as an economic, social and environmental asset.

Key activities include:

- **Hydro Nation Forum**, a high-level group of experts, chaired by the Deputy First Minister to help steer the Hydro Nation work across sectors and share knowledge.
- **Hydro Nation Scholars**, are students studying cutting-edge water topics. These studies will help to create new expertise within Scotland and build our international profile.
- **A Hydro Nation Water Innovation Service** has been established to support product testing and accreditation and bring new and innovative water technologies through to market more quickly – see www.hnwis.scot

Key Links:

Hydro Nation Scholars Programme Web Page:

<http://www.hydronationscholars.scot/>

Scottish Government Hydro Nation Policy Pages:

www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/business-industry/waterindustryscot/scotlandtheHydroNation

Scotland the Hydro Nation Prospectus:

www.scotland.gov.uk/resource/0038/00386783.pdf

The Water Resources (Scotland) Act 2013:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2013/5/enacted>

The Hydro Nation Water Innovation Service (HNWIS)

<https://www.hnwis.scot/>