



IOC Circular Letter No 3068
(Available in English only)

IOC/VH/JB/ic
12 February 2026

To : IOC Member States (Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC)

C.c. : Permanent Delegations to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States
Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the Commission
Officers of Major IOC Subsidiary Bodies (Scientific, Technical and Regional)

Subject: Nippon Foundation / GEBCO (General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans) Training Program Year 23 (2026–2027)

Under the joint auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, GEBCO's aim is to provide the most authoritative publicly available bathymetry of the world's oceans. As part of this centennial project, GEBCO has been funded by the Nippon Foundation to train a new generation of scientists and hydrographers in ocean bathymetry through a 12-month course, leading to the Graduate Certificate in Ocean Mapping at the University of New Hampshire, USA.

With this letter, I am pleased to advise that nominations are being sought for the 23rd class of the 'IOC-IHO-Nippon Foundation / GEBCO Training Program' that will begin in late August 2026 (pending funding to be confirmed in April by the Nippon Foundation).

Students undertake an intensive 12-month training of lectures, practical laboratory and on-the-water projects, secondments to relevant laboratories and cruises on research or survey ships. In addition to teaching staff from the university, other experts are brought in from elsewhere for limited periods to give specialist lectures.

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.

The language of instruction is English, and candidates must demonstrate capability to undertake graduate level instruction 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.

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The minimum standard for admission is a relevant four-year degree in a related field.

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/>

Applications should be sent directly to the course Director by 19 April 2026 at nfg_project_manager@ccom.unh.edu.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary