

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Student assistant

Drought risks in Europe | United Nations University (UNU-EHS) | VARMAP section

United Nations University:

The United Nations University (UNU) is an international community of scholars engaged in policy-oriented research, capacity development and dissemination of knowledge in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The mission of UNU is to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations and its Member States.

United Nations University-Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) established in December 2003, is part of the UNU system, a worldwide network of Research and Training Institutes. Its mission is to advance human security through knowledge-based approaches to reducing vulnerability and environmental risks. For more information, please visit <https://ehs.unu.edu>

Vulnerability Assessment, Risk Management & Adaptive Planning (VARMAP) Section:

The VARMAP section conducts policy-oriented research on vulnerabilities and risks to inform risk reduction and adaptation choices in the context of global change. Its vision is to provide actionable knowledge on systemic risks and pathways to sustainability. VARMAP develops and applies conceptual frameworks and scientific methods to assess socio-economic vulnerability and risk in the context of natural hazards, environmental change and societal transformation. The section explores opportunities to reduce risks and to evaluate competing adaptation options. In doing so, VARMAP examines ways to strengthen adaptive governance. VARMAP has a strong focus on urban areas and rural-urban linkages. Drawing on scenario techniques and dynamic assessment tools, it examines the trends in vulnerability and adaptive capacity as societies undergo wider cultural, economic, demographic and political transformation. VARMAP convenes an interdisciplinary team of researchers and has a wide network of scientific and practical partners. It draws on a mixed methods approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative tools for the analysis. The section combines a global focus with clusters of specific regional expertise, notably in Southeast Asia, South Asia, East Asia, West Africa and Europe.

For detailed information please visit: <https://ehs.unu.edu/about/departments/varmap#overview>

EDORA project:

In line with the adoption of the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change in 2021, the European Commission launched the European Drought Observatory for Resilience and Adaptation project (EDORA), aiming to improve drought resilience and adaptation throughout the EU. The project aims at strengthening the European Drought Observatory (EDO), hosted by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), by enhancing the understanding and assessment of drought risks for different sectors and systems in Europe.

Responsibilities:

To support ongoing research on drought risks and impacts in Europe, the “Vulnerability Assessment, Risk Management & Adaptive Planning” (VARMAP) section of UNU-EHS is looking for a highly motivated **student assistant** with an outstanding record in prior student qualifications and a strong interest in applied research on droughts, drought risks and impacts. Fluency in oral and written English is a prerequisite.

Under the guidance of the Head of the VARMAP section and the supervision of the project manager, the successful candidate will be entrusted with the following **tasks**:

- Conduct desk study and literature review on drought risks and gaps in drought risk assessments (with a special focus on Europe);
- Set up and maintain an online literature database (e.g. using Mendeley, Citavi or similar);
- Support the preparation of expert and stakeholder consultations (workshop and interviews);
- Support background research on drivers of drought risks (including hazard, exposure and vulnerability) for selected sectors and systems (e.g. agriculture, energy, etc...) in Europe;
- Support the creation of conceptual models (impact chains) of drought risk for different sectors and systems;
- Support the drafting of project deliverables and publications;
- In addition, the selected candidate is expected to support any other duties as may be assigned or required in the VARMAP section of UNU-EHS.

Qualifications:

- Currently enrolled in a Master’s degree course
- Familiarity with key concepts of vulnerability and risk connected to natural hazards
- Previous experience with desk study/literature review is a strong asset
- Fluency in English (oral & written)

Conditions:

- Starting date: as soon as possible
- Hours: 8-12 hours of work per week
- Duration: The initial contract will cover a period of up to 6 months with a possibility for extension or renewal based on the work performance
- Location: Can be performed from remote / home-office

Please send your **letter of motivation** (max. 1 page) and **CV** as **one PDF file** to Dr. Michael Hagenlocher (hagenlocher@ehs.unu.edu) and Davide Cotti (cotti@ehs.unu.edu) before **27 February 2022**.

UNU is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages all candidates, irrespective of gender, nationality, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities to apply and become part of the organization.