



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE



INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Geneva Water Hub - Vacancy General Director

Location: Geneva, Switzerland

Activity rate: 100%

Starting period: May 2021

Status: two-year contract (renewable)

Application deadline: 22 March 2021

Introduction

The Geneva Water Hub is looking for a strong candidate to fill the General Director vacancy, which will be open as of June 2021. In collaboration with the leadership team, the new General Director will guide the Geneva Water Hub's strategic development. The Geneva Water Hub is a Centre from the University of Geneva that started its activities in 2014. It focuses its action on the conduct of a global advocacy for the use of water as an instrument of peace and stability, on in-depth analysis related to conflict and cooperation dynamics in the water sector, and on the building of actors networks contributing to global changes. Making the best use of its three core functions (academia, think-tank and advocacy), the Geneva Water Hub is anchored in the International Geneva and articulates its action at the interface between peace, sustainable development, and humanitarian action agendas. The Geneva Water Hub is currently in its third phase of activity (August 2020-July 2023). At present, four strategic fields structure the action of the Geneva Water Hub:

- **Setting a global agenda for water and peace**

This field entails the conduct of advocacy on water and peace at the international level. It includes strategic engagement in international platforms and conferences on water, peace, and humanitarian action. It also comprises the facilitation of the work of the *Group of Friends on Water and Peace*, a platform that groups together diverse UNOG missions. This field of activity also integrates a platform mobilizing art and culture to put the water and peace agenda forward. Finally, it covers an information platform that includes the online media called *The Water Diplomat*.

- **Enabling the Global Observatory for Water and Peace**

Resulting from the recommendations of the *Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace* (for which the Geneva Water Hub acted as Secretariat), the Global Observatory for Water and Peace is currently in its implementation phase. The Observatory has to be operational at the end of the third phase of activity of the Geneva Water Hub. The Observatory is a network of regional institutions and societal nodes (Group of Friends on Water and Peace, media, etc.). Each element of the network provides analytical capacities and contributes to the implementation of Safe Spaces (i.e., spaces and procedures allowing breakthrough thinking and innovation).

- **Research and education on water and peace**

The Geneva Water Hub anchors its activities on scientific thinking and analysis. It takes advantage of the inputs from political sciences and political geography – with the UNESCO Chair on hydropolitics at U. of Geneva – and from international water law – with the Platform for International Water Law at U. of Geneva. In addition, the Geneva Water Hub structures its action around university teaching and lifelong-trainings that focus on hydropolitics, water governance, and international law. Education

programs are led face-to-face and online. Specific education trainings are also regularly designed in a tailor-made fashion for targeted interventions.

- **Legal framework on water in armed conflicts**

This last field focuses on analyzing and reinforcing the international legal framework dedicated to the protection of critical water infrastructures.

Objective

In close collaboration with the leadership team (i.e., science lead and corporate operations manager), the General Director ensures the conduct of the Geneva Water Hub's strategic development and the implementation of its strategic plan.

Terms of reference

In collaboration with the leadership team, the General Director ensures the implementation of the strategic plan (40%), she/he

- Ensures the implementation of the strategic plan and logical framework as defined for the 2020-2023 period;
- Drives activities of the Geneva Water Hub in function of the strategic planning and the profiling of the Geneva Water Hub in the middle and long-term perspective;
- Ensures the implementation, follow-up, coordination, and coherent development of the different initiatives and projects led by the Geneva Water Hub;
- Engages Geneva Water Hub's « lead advisors » and the whole team (conduct of regular team meetings and strategic discussions) in the implementation of the strategy to ensure the continuous development of the Geneva Water Hub;
- Ensures the follow-up and monitoring of undertaken actions, promotes and makes visible the achievements and impacts of the Geneva Water Hub.

In collaboration with the leadership team, the General Director supervises the governance of the Geneva Water Hub (40%), she/he

- Ensures the functioning of the Geneva Water Hub and oversees the relations with the different bodies involved (among others: strategic committee, advisory board, funders, Rectorate of U. of Geneva).
- Ensures that the management of human resources (contracts, renewal, development, capacity building) allows a favorable environment for the Geneva Water Hub staff.
- Ensures the reporting of the Geneva Water Hub's operations and financing.
- Ensures the communication and diffusion of relevant information with strategic and financial partners and contributes to the communication with the general public.
- Provides, twice a year, a risk assessment of the Geneva Water Hub.
- Supports, develops and, conducts fundraising activities to support the Centre's middle-long term needs (core funding).
- Leads meetings and discussions with the strategic committee and with the advisory board, and participates in the Geneva Water Hub's scientific committee.

Maintenance and development of partnerships (20%)

- In addition to its core partners, the Geneva Water Hub collaborates with a large spectrum of partners within the International Geneva and at the international level. In collaboration with the leadership team and staff, the General Director ensures the maintenance of existing networks and contributes to its development.

Achievement of terms of reference

The General Director is part of the leadership team of the Geneva Water Hub. This team supervises the development and functioning of the Geneva Water Hub. The General Director acts under the supervision of the Rectorate of the U. of Geneva and the Geneva Water Hub's strategic committee. Its mission is framed:

- Contractually, by HR regulation of the Graduate Institute;
- For all Geneva Water Hub activities, by the regulation of the U. of Geneva and by the internal regulation of the Geneva Water Hub.

Required qualifications

Education background and experience

- Academic degree (PhD, Master) related to Geneva Water Hub's strategic fields.
- 10 to 15 years of experience in the field of water resources management, in different institutional frameworks such as the public sector, multilateral agencies, development banks, NGO's, academic research, private sector, diplomacy and/or think-tank.
- 5 years of field experience related to Geneva Water Hub's strategic fields.
- Experience in team management, including highly qualified profiles.
- Knowledge, practical experience and networks related to:
 - the international agendas of sustainable development, humanitarian action and/or peace;
 - the International Geneva;
 - the science and policy interface;
 - the management of social, economic, and environmental tensions, natural resources governance, global challenges and risks related to water;
 - the development of new organizations and fundraising.

Skills and competencies

- Ability to drive and support the image and reputation of the Geneva Water Hub;
- Capacity to strategically position the Geneva Water Hub;
- Ability to drive and motivate a team and to direct the work towards innovative ideas and global influence;
- Ability to coordinate and communicate;
- Strong interpersonal, interinstitutional, and intercultural skills for different types of arenas in which the Geneva Water Hub is active;
- Taste for contact and interactions with various partners, at ease with a large spectrum of technical, academic, and high-level political partners;
- Skills for negotiation and advising;
- Capacities to lead high-level discussions and thinking;
- Good writing skills (reports, synthetic notes, political notes, positioning);
- Capacities to lead analytical and strategic thinking;
- Capacities to manage complex projects, sense of priorities;
- Ability to take and justify decisions and to work in an action-oriented manner;
- Loyalty and integrity *vis-à-vis* the Geneva Water Hub, the U. of Geneva, the Graduate Institute, and other strategic and financial partners;
- International visibility to which the candidate associates the Geneva Water Hub;
- Knowledge of basic IT software and reporting procedures;
- Capacity to lead a bilingual working environment (French/English), and ability to work in both languages (written and spoken);

- Ability to deal with frequent missions in Switzerland and abroad;
- Sensitivity for the artistic and cultural domains would be an advantage.

Respect of applicable regulation

The General Director agrees to respect all regulations from the U. of Geneva and the Geneva Water Hub. The contract is based at the Graduate Institute, which frames the working conditions.

Intellectual property

Intellectual property rights derived from the work done in the position belong to the Geneva Water Hub and the U. of Geneva.

Duty of reporting

With the leadership team, the General Director agrees to regularly inform the Rectorate of U. of Geneva, the strategic committee, and the financial partners about the progress of the work, development and potential issues related to the Geneva Water Hub's work and the implementation of its strategy.

Confidentiality

The candidate commits not to disseminate any confidential information gathered during its work with the Geneva Water Hub. This obligation last beyond the end of the contract.

Conflicts of interest

This full-time position does not allow to conduct ancillary activities except for the participation to association boards, institutions, clubs or commissions, as long as there is no conflict of interest related to the Geneva Water Hub's activities. These participations should be communicated to the leadership team.

Starting time and procedure

The starting time is planned for May 2021. The mission is based on two years contract (renewable). The new General Director will start its mission with a transition phase of 3 months led in collaboration with the actual General Director.

Requested documents

- Curriculum Vitae
- Cover letter
- Two reference contacts
- Diplomas
- List of publications
- An experience statement (max 2 pages) related to experiences related fieldwork and/or multilateralism

ONLY ON-LINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED:

https://erecruit.graduateinstitute.ch/recrutement/?page=advertisement_display&id=319&lng=en

For any question, please contact Prof. Christian Bréthaut (Christian.brethaut@unige.ch)