

## Who Can Apply?

Only **indigenous** men and women may apply for the Programme. Non-indigenous persons will not be considered even if they work for an indigenous organization.

Indigenous peoples share some or all of the following identifying characteristics:

- Descendants of the peoples who inhabited a land or territory prior to colonization or the establishment of State borders;
- Distinct social, economic and political systems, languages, cultures and beliefs;
- Determined to maintain and develop this distinct identity;
- Strong attachment to their ancestral lands and the natural resources therein;
- Belong to the non-dominant groups of a society and identify themselves as indigenous peoples.

### The candidate

- Should be **proposed** and the candidacy **supported** by his/her indigenous organization or community;
- Should have a **good working knowledge of English, French, Russian or Spanish**, languages in which the Programme is conducted;
- Should be **willing and able to train other indigenous persons** upon return to their respective communities/organizations.

### Note

There is **no age limit** or **formal educational requirement** to apply to the programme.



Photos: Anouk Garrigue



Photo: Vasily Nemechkin



Photo: Andrea Elizabeth Umul Tiguilá



Photo: Maria Cherkanova



Photo: Olga Khuriun



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## Contact

The Indigenous Fellowship Programme takes place annually. The deadlines for applications vary from one language component to another. Travel, living expenses, health insurance and training materials are covered by the Programme. For more information on the Programme please see our website:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/Pages/Fellowship.aspx>

or contact:

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
Human Rights  
Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section (IPMS)  
UNOG-OHCHR  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

Fax: + 41 022 928 90 / 66 or 08

E-mail: [fellowship@ohchr.org](mailto:fellowship@ohchr.org)

## INDIGENOUS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

### *Human Rights Training for Indigenous Peoples*

*Who Can Apply and How?*



## Empowering Indigenous Peoples

Established in 1997, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Indigenous Fellowship is a training programme, which aims to empower indigenous representatives and their communities by strengthening their knowledge of the United Nations and its human rights instruments and mechanisms (such as Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures, Human Rights Council, Universal Periodic Review), in particular those related to indigenous issues.

Trained fellows are better equipped to assist their organizations and communities to promote and protect indigenous rights.

Since its creation, the Programme has trained **244 indigenous** men and women representing more than **125 different indigenous peoples** from **54 countries** all over the world.

Starting with a small group of four indigenous fellows in 1997, the training brought together twenty-three fellows in 2012, in Geneva.



Photo: Tomas Huanacu



Photo: Roger Cho



Photo: Olga Khuriun



Photo: Olga Khuriun



Photo: Tomas Huanacu



Photo: Olga Khuriun



Photo: Olga Khuriun



Photo: Olga Khuriun

## Learning about Programmes and Mechanisms of Interest to Indigenous Peoples

The Programme curriculum includes both theoretical and practical sessions, individual and group assignments, and observations of sessions of human rights bodies such as the Human Rights Council and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP).

In addition, the training program in Geneva includes introductions to the programmes and activities of other UN agencies or specialized organizations such as the ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF and WIPO.

Introductory sessions to the work of Geneva-based human rights NGOs are also included in the curriculum.

## One Programme, Four Languages

The Indigenous Fellowship Programme is available in four languages: English (since 1997), Spanish (since 2000), French (since 2002), and Russian (since 2005). The total duration of the training varies from one language component to another ranging from four weeks to three months. The curriculum is also adjusted as per language component and is currently organized as follows:

- **English** and **French**: the training only takes place in Geneva and lasts four weeks;
- **Spanish**: organized in collaboration with the University of Deusto (UD) in Bilbao, Spain, the programme is composed of a two-month course at the UD, followed by four weeks of training at the OHCHR in Geneva;
- **Russian**: organized in collaboration with the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (PFUR) in Moscow, Russian Federation, the programme consists of a one-month course at the PFUR, followed by four weeks of training at the OHCHR in Geneva.

The training in Geneva (June/July) brings together all four language components; sessions are simultaneously interpreted.



Photo: Olga Khuriun



Photo: Olga Khuriun



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