

N-POC fact sheet

Norway-Pacific Ocean-Climate Scholarship Programme – N-POC

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About the N-POC programme:

The Norway-Pacific Ocean-Climate Scholarship Programme (N-POC) is an ambitious partnership in research and PhD training between two geographically remote, structurally different, but thematically convergent institutions of research and higher education: the University of Bergen (UiB) in Norway, and the regional University of the South Pacific (USP).

The main objectives of N-POC:

1. To build a strong interdisciplinary Pacific cohort of PhD researchers to address urgent challenges for ocean and climate;
2. To build new multidisciplinary Pacific research on the ocean-climate nexus for regional and global policy impact;
3. To build enduring partnerships between researchers and universities in Norway and the Pacific Islands.

N-POC FACTS:

- N-POC is funded for 2021–2024 by Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad).
- The programme comprises about 24 fully funded PhD scholarships at the USP within ocean and climate research, ranging from the natural sciences to the social sciences and humanities.
- PhD candidates may be recruited from all 12 member countries of the USP, and from the other Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) of Papua New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau.
- The scholarships will be advertised through the regional organisations of the Pacific with an aim to start the programme in January 2021.
- N-POC will build on complementarity between the two universities: While UiB is one of Norway's largest universities and has a strategic research focus on ocean, climate and global challenges, USP is the Pacific Islands region's own multi-country university with 12 far-flung member states.
- The two universities have a long record of collaboration on research projects, performing arts, student exchange and shared initiatives of science-driven ocean and climate diplomacy.
- The collaboration between the two universities is managed through a broad Memorandum of Understanding.
- In the N-POC project, all 24 PhD candidates are to be based at the USP's Laucala campus in Suva, Fiji, but will be supervised jointly by researchers from both universities.
- A range of new interdisciplinary online courses will be developed, and all 24 candidates will be invited to a dedicated summer school programme at the University of Bergen.



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