

Call for Applications

ISA´s Deep Dive E-Learning Platform

Eleventh Cohort | January - March 2027

General presentation

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is inviting interested individuals to apply to the first, the second and third levels of the Deep Dive Programme (Dive 1, Dive 2 and Dive 3 until 5 December 2026.

Developed within the framework of the ISA Capacity Development Strategy, Deep Dive is the first and the only e-learning training platform exclusively devised to address all elements of the legal regime in Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Implementation Agreement, including technical and scientific aspects.

Deep Dive is designed to enhance the capacity of government officials and practitioners from Member States, including developing States Members of ISA, young graduates, personnel of partner institutions or other relevant stakeholders to understand and implement the legal regime of the Area and the different elements pertaining to the conduct of activities in the Area.

The Deep Dive online curriculum has a modular structure with three progressive levels: Dives 1, 2 and 3. Each comprises modules that offer a mix of compulsory and elective lessons to ensure the successful transfer of foundational knowledge and a degree of flexibility to accommodate personal preferences.

Dive 1 fits the needs of individuals with little knowledge of the legal regime of the Area. It will guide students through the key features of the concept of the common heritage of humankind, the fundamental principles governing the Area, the role, functions and mandate of ISA, and the objectives of sustainable development of the Area and its resources.

Dive 2 has been designed to address the needs of individuals with some basic knowledge of the legal regime of the Area and the work of ISA but in need of further knowledge on specific aspects. Dive 2 will provide enhanced knowledge of the key areas surrounding marine mineral resources in the Area and the protection of the marine environment.

Dive 3 has been designed to address the needs of individuals with more advanced knowledge but in need of further professional development to ensure full grasp of all areas pertaining to the UNCLOS and its Part XI, marine scientific research, protection of the marine environment, methodology and use of technology activities in the Area. It includes all the modules as mandatory requirements.

Content

Dive 1 comprises a mandatory module on UNCLOS and the governance of the Area.

Dive 2 includes a mandatory module on UNCLOS and the work of ISA and two other modules to be chosen among the five available modules.

Dive 3 offers all the modules as mandatory requirements.

Application

ISA is now accepting applications until 5 December 2026. from students to enroll in the e-learning course, which will take place between January – March 2027.

Eligibility Criteria

ISA will consider only those applicants who meet the following eligibility criteria:

1.Education:

- Dive 1: Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline (with full transcript) and/or 1-2 years of relevant work experience. No previous knowledge of ISA and the law of the sea is required.
- Dive 2: Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline (with full transcript) and/or 3 – 4 years of relevant work experience. Previous knowledge of ISA and the law of the sea is recommended.
- Dive 3: Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline (with full transcript) and/or 5 or more years of relevant work experience. Previous knowledge of ISA and the law of the sea is mandatory.

2.If English is not the applicant's mother tongue or the language of teaching and learning at the undergraduate level, applicants must submit with their registration an internationally recognized English language proficiency test. Acceptable tests include the International English Language Testing System (IELTS, band 6.0 or above), Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL – Internet-based test score 80+ and paper-based test score 550+), Cambridge examinations (level CPE/C2). If the participant does not have a recent English test score or has never participated in an English test, degrees awarded in English will be accepted.

3. Complete motivation statements outlining how the programme will further the applicant's career and/or personnel development.

Applicants from developing States, including least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing States, as well as women, are strongly encouraged to apply.

Application and Selection

Interested individuals should apply through the Deep Dive registration page no later than 5 December 2026. Late applications will not be considered.

Applications will be evaluated by the Capacity Development Unit of the ISA Secretariat.

The successful candidates will be notified by 18 December 2026.

Selected participants will be granted access to Deep Dive from 1 January 2027.

Participants are required to complete their Dives not later than 31 March 2027.

The participants' knowledge and understanding of each lesson and elective will be tested in multiple-choice quizzes and a final quiz under each Module. A minimum score of 80 per cent is required to pass the quiz. If such a score is not attained, the candidate will not be eligible for a refund.

Students wishing to earn the Deep Dive certificate for Dive 1, Dive 2 or Dive 3 must pass a final test with an overall grade of at least 80 per cent.

Important Deadlines

- [ ] Deadline for application: 5 December 2026
- [ ] Notification to successful candidates: 14 December 2026
- [ ] Start date: 1 January 2027
- [ ] Deadline for completion: 31 March 2027

For enquires on nominations, please contact Ms. Nuklan Hugh, Learning and Development Assistant, at: deep-dive@isa.org.jm

