



## IORA Blue Carbon Hub Early Career Ocean Professionals Program Call for applications – 2025

Blue carbon ecosystems help support food security and livelihoods and play an important role in disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation. However, when degraded they can become significant sources of greenhouse gases, contributing to climate change. Robust science, policy and governance frameworks are key to protection and restoration of this important natural capital. Recognising this, the [IORA Blue Carbon Hub](#) aims to build knowledge and capacity relevant to protecting and restoring blue carbon ecosystems throughout the Indian Ocean, in a way that enhances livelihoods, reduces risks from coastal hazards, and helps mitigate climate change. The Hub's activities are broadly divided into two nodes: science and finance.

Applications are **now open** for the 2025 Early Career Ocean Professionals program. This program offers early-career professionals a unique opportunity to develop expertise in blue carbon science, policy, or finance. Participants also contribute valuable insights to support Member States to identify actionable strategies for protecting and restoring blue carbon ecosystems. Eligible applicants (<6 years since graduation from highest degree) from any [IORA Member State](#) can apply to visit the Hub's office at the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre in Perth (Australia) to undertake a project. Successful applicants will need an endorsement by the relevant IORA National Focal Point.

Projects can include activities such as original research, reviews or development of policy briefs — we encourage applicants to suggest their own ideas. Visits will be from 6-8 weeks in duration, from **7 July to 1 September 2025**. Applicants should nominate collaborators that they wish to work with; collaborators should be available for regular contact for the duration of the program. Applicants without existing networks can request assistance to identify a suitable collaborator.

Costs associated with the visit (airfares, accommodation, visa application fees and daily per diems) will be covered by the Hub, but salaries are not covered. Successful candidates will be selected through a competitive process.

- Applications are open to citizens or residents of any IORA Member State
- Successful applicants will need an endorsement by the IORA National Focal Point
- Applicants should fill out an online application form: <https://forms.gle/CWzp7hhonrmP81Ax9>

The deadline for applications is **31 March 2025**. Applicants will be notified via email by 30 May on the outcome of their application.

**For more information on the criteria please read the FAQs** available on the [current calls](#) section of the Hub's website.

More information about previous ECOPs can be found [here](#).

Please direct questions about the program or application process to The IORA Blue Carbon Hub [iora.bluecarbonhub@csiro.au](mailto:iora.bluecarbonhub@csiro.au) for any queries regarding the endorsement contact the IORA Secretariat – [hq@iora.int](mailto:hq@iora.int), with a copy to [shamimtaz.sadally@iora.int](mailto:shamimtaz.sadally@iora.int).