



Young Professionals Strategy

June, 2024

Introduction

This document outlines the strategy for the Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS) Students, Young professionals, and Researchers (GIWS-SYR) group. The aim is to coordinate efforts among all young professionals within GIWS, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, early career researchers, technicians, and staff. The GIWS-SYR will involve members from across the University of Saskatchewan (USask) who have a focus on water. The overall goal of the GIWS-SYR is to bring together young water students, researchers, technicians, and staff and provide them with a sense of community, mentorship, collaboration, and professional growth.

GIWS Mandate for SYRs

GIWS is committed to offering students and young researchers opportunities to participate in activities that develop their understanding of water security challenges, including an appreciation for the need to bring a wide range of expertise together to address these critical issues. The SYR body promotes social networking and community engagement as part of its mandate.

GIWS strongly supports the professional development of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and offers numerous workshops on knowledge mobilization, equity, diversity and inclusion topics, and various research skills.

GIWS-SYR Mission and Purpose

The following goals and priorities have been identified for the GIWS-SYR group:

- Through open communication and events, provide a sense of community among the GIWS-SYR from across the USask campus, including undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, early career researchers, technicians, and staff;
- Provide professional development opportunities;
- Liaise with other water-related professional societies;
- Organize and promote GIWS-SYR activities, achievements, and social networking events;
- Support and promote GIWS activities; and,
- Act as ambassadors for water research locally, nationally and internationally.



Executive and Member Structure

The GIWS-SYR comprises four Executive positions (President, Vice President/Treasurer, Secretary, and Social Coordinator). Each position is appointed for one year and eligible for renewal. In recognition of their contributions to GIWS, each member of the GIWS-SYR executive will receive a \$250 honorarium per year. Viviana Barrera Niño has been appointed as a GIWS resource person for the GIWS-SYR and will liaise with the GIWS-SYR President on a regular basis. Monthly meetings will be set for GIWS-SYR executive to meet with the Executive Director of GIWS.

GIWS-SYR Executive Roles

The roles and responsibilities of the executives will be reviewed once every two years and if required, will be modified to suit the needs of the committee (*see the following section*). The following outlines the roles of the Executive members:

President

- Chair of the GIWS-SYR executive
- Appointed representative of the GIWS-SYR at meetings/events
- Participates in weekly GIWS staff meetings
- Point person for GIWS-SYR support to GIWS in organizing webinars and events as needed (for example, Water Fridays, World Water Day)
- Lead the preparation of annual reports (financial status, annual activities, etc.)
- Prepare for and lead regular GIWS-SYR meetings
- Maintain communication between GIWS-SYR and GIWS executive team

Vice-President/Treasurer

- Responsible for GIWS-SYR finances (budget and expenses) and reporting to the GIWS-SYR President and executive
- Reporting to and liaising with the GIWS Finance Director
- Assume the role of President in their absence
- In collaboration with the Events Co-ordinator, identify opportunities for professional development for GIWS-SYR members
- Help promote GIWS-SYR activities and major GIWS events



Global Institute for Water Security
National Hydrology Research Centre
11 Innovation Boulevard
Saskatoon, SK S7N 3H5 Canada
Tel: (306) 966-2021; Fax: (306) 966-1193

Secretary

- Organize, schedule and take minutes for monthly executive meetings
- Assist with day-to-day administration of GIWS-SYR
- Oversee communication and social media presence of GIWS-SYR; liaise with GIWS for web page updates
- Communicate student achievements (publications, conference presentations, awards/scholarships, acknowledgements etc.) to the GIWS Communications Specialist
- Assist with annual reporting
- Take on special project activities as determined by the GIWS-SYR executive (e.g., EDI)

Events Co-ordinator

- Plan and execute social activities, including monthly social events (i.e. movie nights, potluck, etc.) and other volunteer activities
- Member of the GIWS Water Fridays planning committee
- Support the Vice President / Treasurer in planning and executing professional development activities
- Liaise with GIWS executive to plan joint GIWS/GIWS-SYR activities and to support key GIWS events such as the GIWS Christmas party, World Water Day and trivia night, SYR BBQ, etc.
- Take on special project activities as determined by the GIWS-SYR executive (e.g., EDI)

GIWS-SYR Executives - Eligibility and Application Process

Everyone who is eligible to be a member of the GIWS-SYR, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, early career researchers, technicians, and staff working in water-related areas at USask can put their names forward to be a member of the GIWS-SYR executive.

Interested candidates must be a member of the GIWS-SYR ([Become a Member - Global Institute for Water Security | University of Saskatchewan \(usask.ca\)](#)) and should submit an application by e-mail to Viviana Barrera Niño (viviana.bn@usask.ca) by **Sept 6th, 2024**. The application should include the following:

- 1) Written statement of purpose, including which role(s) you are interested in, why you are interested in the role, and why you would be an excellent fit for the role (maximum one page)
- 2) Curriculum vitae (CV)
- 3) Letter of recommendation from your supervisor (maximum one page)



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The GIWS Executive Committee (also the Selection Committee) will review the applications and, based on the criteria below, decide who will invite members to the GIWS-SYR Executive. The criteria are weighted as follows:

- Extracurricular Activities & Past Experience – 25%
- Supervisor Recommendation – 25%
- Statement of Purpose – 50%

The GIWS mission is to come together as a leading water community to deliver essential knowledge, tools, and future leaders in Saskatchewan, the prairies, Canada, and around the world through impactful research in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Our values and principles strive for excellence and sustainability through inclusivity, respect, reciprocity, transparency, and accountability. The GIWS-SYR executive will be accountable for maintaining these values and principles as an extension of the Institute.

Reporting

Within the first one month of their appointment, executives will develop and present a plan for the academic year to the GIWS executive. The plan will consist of proposed activities and a detailed budget to serve as a guide for the year. Upon GIWS approval, this will become the roadmap for their tenure and form the metrics for success at year end. Regular updates and reports will be provided at the GIWS staff meeting and through regular meetings with the GIWS liaison to GIWS SYR.

A final report is due to the Executive Director of GIWS no later than August 30th. The report will provide a summary of:

- Activities (meetings, social activities)
- Outreach and volunteer events
- Professional development events
- Student achievements (internal and external scholarship recipients, publications, presentations, etc.)
- A complete accounting of expenditures
- Any other information of relevance to GIWS-SYR

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