



**Global
Diversity
Foundation**

A world of difference

GlobalEnvironments
SUMMER ACADEMY
Peer-to-peer learning for emerging changemakers

Global Environments Summer Academy 2015

The [Global Diversity Foundation](#) announces [GESA 2015](#): the fifth Global Environments Summer Academy, designed to broaden and deepen the knowledge, networking, and communication skills of activists, postgraduate students and professionals who are concerned about human dimensions of environmental challenges. The Academy, in collaboration with the [Centre for Development and Environment](#) of the University of Bern (Switzerland), will be held between 27 July and 14 August 2015. More details about the course content, financial information and registration are available below and on the [GESA website](#), which also provides an overview of previous academies, including alumni profiles, a blog, themes, photos and videos. For insights into the GESA 2014 experience and inspiration, please watch our new video "[Where have all our environmental leaders gone?](#)".

The academy convenors will select 18-21 activists, professionals or students from around the world with the capacity to become future environmental leaders who impact academia, civil society, the private sector or government. We invite applications from candidates in the arts and humanities, natural sciences and social sciences – as well as those working in advocacy, law, media or policy – who focus on the relationship between environment and society.

The cost of the academy is €2000, inclusive of accommodation, tuition, field trips, insurance and materials, but excluding local and international travel, meals and other living costs. Participants are expected to independently secure funding to cover all expenses through academic scholarships, crowdsourcing, personal funds, employer support, government grants or travel grants.



The skyline of Bern: the Aare River, Marzili Park, Swiss Alps and other aspects of the cultural landscape of Switzerland's capital will feature prominently in GESA 2015 (Photo: GJ Martin)

Please note there is a two-stage application process for GESA 2015. Candidates are invited to complete the [application form](#) and upload their CV before 15 January 2015. All applicants will be notified of the first stage results by 15 February 2015, and finalists will be invited to the second stage, during which they will be asked for additional information, including any demonstrated need for the limited number

of partial fee waivers that may be offered. The additional Stage 2 submission will be due by 15 March 2015. A final selection of participants will be completed by 1 May 2015, and applicants will be informed of the award of any fee waiver by 1 June 2015. The deadline for payment of the academy fee will be 15 June 2015.



GESA begins with a retreat in the Swiss Alps, allowing participants to explore their connections with nature and among themselves



Resource people are in residence throughout the Academy to share their experience and insights



The focus in GESA is on peer-to-peer learning that is experiential, interactive and transformative (All photos: Inanc Tekguc)

Since 2011, GDF has organised GESA to broaden and deepen the knowledge, networking and communication skills of activists, postgraduate students and professionals who are concerned about the human dimensions of environmental challenges. The Academy spans local to global scales and diverse ecosystems, exploring the most critical contemporary environmental issues from multiple perspectives including biocultural diversity, environmental history, political ecology, sustainability studies and personal activism. Accompanied by international and multidisciplinary [resource people](#), participants are encouraged to expand their understandings of policy, develop academic insights and competence, and transcend disciplinary and place-based boundaries. Resource persons and fellow participants offer personalised support in applied research, conceptual frameworks, fieldwork methods and practical action throughout the course. You can support this initiative and be informed about GESA activities and updates by liking the GESA [Facebook page](#). To receive the GESA newsletter, sign up [here](#).



Group photo of GESA 2014: as in previous years, the participants in GESA 2015 will come from a diversity of countries, disciplines and sectors of society (Photo: Inanc Tekguc)