



INTERNATIONAL OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAMME

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**IODP³ SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT
ADVISORY (SEA) GROUP**

Deadline: 21 March 2025

Call for applications to serve as a Member of the IODP³ Safety and Environment Advisory (SEA) Group

Introduction

The International Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP³) addresses fundamental questions about Earth's climate, deep life, geodynamics, and geohazards and is driven by a flow of **scientific ocean drilling/coring proposals** provided by the scientific community. Our Panels and Boards are staffed via open, international, competitive selection processes to ensure that IODP³ benefits from inputs from talented scientists and engineers while adhering to the highest standards of equality, diversity and social inclusivity.

The **Safety and Environment Advisory (SEA) Group** is an advisory body to the IODP³ MSP Facility Board (MSP-FB), Science Evaluation Panel (SEP) and the IODP³ Operators. It provides essential independent advice regarding potential safety and environmental issues associated with the general and specific geological settings of proposed drilling/coring sites. The SEA Group also provides advice on appropriate drilling/coring technologies for the avoidance of drilling hazards and the protection of the environment, plus advice on geopolitical and cultural considerations that may affect implementation of drilling/coring proposals.

Mandate of the SEA Group

The primary responsibility of the SEA Group is to evaluate all prospective IODP³ drilling/coring sites and advise SEP and the MSP-FB on safety and environmental issues. The principal geological safety issue and most significant environmental hazard in ocean drilling is the possible release of high-pressure fluids and/or volatiles (including hydrocarbons) from subsurface reservoirs. Careful planning and appropriate site characterisation reduce or eliminate this risk.

Specifically, the SEA Group is responsible for:

- in liaison with the SEP-Site Co-Chair and SEP membership, advising proponents of IODP³ scientific drilling proposals at an early stage of the development of their proposals on general safety and environmental issues (including geopolitical and cultural issues) that may be associated with their target areas, and raising their awareness of the types of site survey data that will be required to identify these issues and mitigate any risks.
- independently examining and reviewing site survey data and operational plans of proposals passing through the SEP system, to determine if and how proposed drilling/coring operations can be conducted to maximise safety and minimise environmental impact.
- advising the MSP-FB and IODP³ operators on safety and environmental issues associated with proposals being considered for implementation upon request.

Eligibility and scientific expertise needs for this call

IODP³ seeks applications from specialists in the fields of marine geology, geophysics and/or engineering from the geoscientific communities in IODP³ Core and Associated Member nations to join the **current members of the SEA Group**. Applicants should be able to provide expert advice on maximising safety and minimising environmental impact associated with drilling/coring of proposed sites, including sites in hydrocarbon prone and biologically, environmental or culturally sensitive areas. Members of the SEA Group will be primarily selected based on this specific expertise.

How to Apply

Applications from scientists based in IODP³ Core and Associate Member nations must be submitted to the IODP³ Science Office by the deadline of **midnight GMT on Friday 21 March 2025** using the **IODP³ Gateway** system, accessed via the **Apply to Participate** link on the **IODP³ website**.

Information on the content required in applications to this call is available in the IODP³ **Guide for Applicants**.

Applications received by the deadline will be evaluated by the IODP³ Programme Member Offices and nominated candidates will be considered for approval by the MSP-FB.

SEA Group members will be initially appointed for a three-year term renewable at the discretion of the SEA Group Chair and the MSP-FB. Meetings are convened virtually when requested by the SEP and/or MSP-FB Co-Chairs.

- For enquiries about SEA Group responsibilities and meetings, please contact:
Sasha Turchyn, MSP-FB Co-Chair, avt25@cam.ac.uk
Nobukazu Seama, MSP-FB Co-Chair, seama@kobe-u.ac.jp
- For enquiries about the application process and IODP³ Gateway, please contact:
Jodie Fisher, IODP³ Science Office, applications@iodp3.org