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| Invitation letter student project Beja Portugal February 2020 |  |  |
|  | Stadhuisplein 40, 1315 XA AlmereThe Netherlands+31 88 020 630018 October 2019 |

Integrated project on water quality for final year BSc students and MSc students

Dear colleague,

After three successful editions of our international, interdisciplinary project for students in Beja, Portugal, we again reach out to you. At our Aeres University of Applied Sciences faculty in Almere we are running a one-year international programme on Aquatic Ecosystem Analysis with BSc certification. This programme includes a very appealing cooperation with our partner university IP Beja, Portugal: an integrated project of 5 weeks (8 ECTS) where students have to solve a water system issue in the Beja region. In the most recent project students from the Aquatic Ecosystem Analysis programme have worked together with IP Beja students and students from Italy, Estonia, Germany, Poland, Croatia and Brazil with backgrounds in Agronomy, Environmental Engineering and Biology to come with integrated solutions from their multi-disciplinary and international teams. Students have evaluated the project to be very useful for their professional and cultural development as they learn to work independently in a relevant stakeholder setting.

A visual impression of the introduction excursion in the first week of the 2018 edition can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQO1rkiGhC0>.

Again, we want to invite students with backgrounds in aquatic ecology, water management, or environmental hygiene and engineering to join the 5 week water system project in Beja in February 2020.

**Details of the project**

There is an official client with an actual water system problem, for whom the students find solutions. The project takes place in the Beja region, in the province of Alqueva. It is related to the effects of the new irrigation and drinking water infrastructure on the water system. Students are invited to do their own system analysis, work with data from the client and gather data themselves in the field and in contact with stakeholders. Assessed elements will be:

* Stakeholder process
* Possible measures and advice for best measure based on criteria: realistic, economically viable, environmental impact and stakeholder wishes
* Quality of the report and presentation

**Organisation and costs**

The project is hosted by the university IP Beja. Supervision is done by teachers from IP Beja and Aeres University of Applied Sciences. Students can make use of student facilities at IP Beja such as library, canteen and take part in activities arranged for international students. Costs for the students to be expected are:

* Housing arranged by the international office of IP Beja, approximately 240€
* Travel costs to Beja, approximately 100-200€ European retour flight
* Food and other personal expenses, the university canteen has warm meals for 2€

**Application?**

Students are asked to apply if they are interested and are:

* In their final year of the BSc, or in a MSc programme
* Are studying in themes related to aquatic ecology, water management, environmental hygiene and environmental engineering
* Able to prove they are sufficiently proficient and confident in English communication

To ensure quality there is a maximum of 20 participants for this project. If necessary we will make a selection from the applicants aimed on achieving a balance in knowledge and skills of the participants. If this is the case, all interested parties will be duly informed.

We hope you will inform your students about this possibility. Feel free to contact us if any questions arise. You and your students may contact Annet Pouw at a.pouw@aeres.nl or Floris Keizer at f.keizer@aeres.nl for more information and application. Application may include a letter of motivation.

On behalf of the team Integrated Project Beja,

Kind regards,

Annet Pouw

Coordinator Integrated Project Beja

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