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Circular Letter No.4944  
7 November 2024

To: All IMO Member States

Subject: **Nomination of candidates: Master's Programmes at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, Malta, October 2025 to July 2026**

1 The International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) was established in 1988 in Malta, under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), with the generous provision of the premises and related facilities by the Government of Malta.

2 The Secretary-General is pleased to announce that the Master of Laws (LL.M.) programme in International Maritime Law and the Master of Humanities (M.Hum.) programme in International Maritime Legislation, will be held at IMLI from October 2025 to July 2026. A limited number of fellowships funded by IMO will be available to selected suitably qualified candidates nominated by their Government.

### **Academic programmes and requirements**

3 The LL.M. and M.Hum. programmes have been designed as intensive specialized postgraduate programmes in international maritime law. While the LL.M. programme is open exclusively to graduates in law, the M.Hum. programme is open to candidates holding a degree in any other discipline related to international maritime law. The programmes include in-depth education in international maritime law and training in the drafting of maritime legislation for the incorporation of IMO treaties into national legislation. It has been recognized that the most effective way to assist countries in implementing IMO treaties is the expert training of their own nationals. These nationals will subsequently constitute the initial nucleus of a well-established cadre of specialists in international maritime law, competent in maritime legislation drafting, which is of paramount importance for the safe and secure operation and development of the shipping and port industries, the protection of the marine environment, as well as the achievement of IMO's objectives.

4 The Institute's programmes are conducted solely in English. Applicants must therefore be proficient in the English language and meet the language requirements as set by the Institute. Certain applicants may be assigned to the pre-sessional Maritime Legal English Course, which will be undertaken in situ at the Institute from July to September 2025.

5 It is essential that applicants have computer competence, with the ability to use Microsoft Office.

## **Nomination of candidates and application process**

6 Nomination of candidates by the Government concerned (nominating authority) should be made using the nomination form, which forms part of the "**Application Package for Nominated Candidates for 2025-2026**" and can be downloaded from the Institute's website: <https://imli.org/programmes-and-courses/ll-m-programme/> and <https://imli.org/programmes-and-courses/master-of-humanities-programme/>. For the timely selection and notification of candidates, **it is essential that the completed documents, including application and nomination forms, and the fellowship application form, where applicable, reach the Institute by 17 February 2025.** The selection of candidates will take place soon after the deadline. Those selected and the concerned nominating authority will be informed accordingly by the Institute. Selected candidates will be required to arrive at the Institute prior to the commencement of the academic year, and in case they are unable to do so, for whatever reason, they should inform the Institute as soon as possible and withdraw their applications.

7 By submitting an application and nominating a person for studies at the Institute, both the applicant and the nominating authority are confirming that they are aware of the national legislative and/or administrative requirements which have to be met by selected applicants, prior to travelling to the Institute and commencing their studies; that the aforesaid requirements are met for the duration of their studies; and that they will promptly take the actions required to comply with these requirements.

8 Participation is offered on the widest possible geographical basis, but the number of admissions per country is limited. Accordingly, should nominations be made for two or more candidates from one country, a priority order should be indicated by the nominating authority. It should be noted that 50% of admissions are reserved for women candidates.

9 The nominating authority bears the cost of the application processing fee, visa fees (if any), travel costs to and from Malta and health insurance costs and, unless a fellowship is awarded, is also responsible for the payment of the programme fee.

## **Fellowships**

10 Candidates in employment with their government who cannot secure funding in their home countries may apply to be considered for one of the fellowships awarded by the Institute's various donors, including IMO. In addition to the programme fee, most of these fellowships provide for accommodation offered by the Institute and a monthly stipend to cover basic living costs in Malta. The applicants' employers are required to continue paying the students' salaries while they are on study leave.

11 In order to be considered for a fellowship, the applicant must first be cleared academically. Subsequently, the Institute will endeavour to identify suitable fellowship donors. Fellowship applications are processed directly by the Institute in close liaison with the fellowship donors on the basis of merit and the individual parameters established by the various donors. All fellowship requests should thus be addressed to the Institute directly.

12 Please note that all application, nomination and fellowship application forms are processed by the Institute and IMO will not enter into correspondence with the nominating authorities nor the applicants regarding the status of their applications.

13 Candidates who are offered an IMO fellowship should note that the fellowship is strictly personal, non-transferable and to be utilized for the academic year it was awarded. Under exceptional circumstances, IMO may agree to carry over a fellowship. Consideration will, however, be made on a case-by-case basis and the decision rests with IMO. The award of an IMO fellowship is conditional to the nominating authority confirming to the Institute the continued employment of the graduate upon return to their country.

14 The fellowship application form should be accompanied by proof of payment of the fellowship application fee via bank transfer to the Institute's bank account or online through the Institute's website [here](#). Fellowship application fees and any bank transfer charges incurred are to be borne by the nominating authority and are in addition to the programme application and processing fee. Where a fellowship is awarded, the nominating authority remains responsible for the payment of the fees and costs referred to in paragraph 9. Please refer to the Institute's application documentation for detailed information on the various applicable fees.

15 Prospective applicants and nominating authorities are urged to familiarize themselves with the detailed information on the programmes' syllabi and application procedure that can be found in the "**Application Package for Nominated Candidates for 2025-2026**" on the Institute's website: <https://imli.org/programmes-and-courses/>.

16 The Secretary-General wishes to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the Government of Malta for its support.

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