



World Customs Organization

Rue du Marché 30, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium
T: +32 (0)2 209 92 11

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Dear Director General,

I am pleased to inform you that the World Customs Organization (WCO), in cooperation with the Customs Cooperation Fund Korea (CCF-Korea), is organizing the 2026 BACUDA Scholarship Programme (Data Analytics). The Scholarship Programme, intended for working-level officials from developing countries, will be held from 26 January 2026 to 24 April 2026 at the Hanyang University (HYU) in Korea and will be conducted in English.

As Customs administrations worldwide collect and manage increasing volumes of data, strengthening their capacity to analyze and use this information effectively has become essential. Data analytics can significantly enhance operational efficiency and support key functions such as revenue collection, post-clearance audit, compliance, and risk management. This initiative is fully aligned with the WCO Strategic Plan 2025–2028, particularly the focus area “Technology and Innovation,” because it builds Members’ capabilities to leverage advanced analytics and data-driven tools for smarter, more future-ready Customs operations.

In this context, the WCO is pleased to offer the BACUDA Scholarship Programme to enable carefully selected participants to acquire data analytics knowledge for Customs technical applications alongside relevant academic foundations. This will assist them in contributing to their Administrations’ transformation into data-driven organizations.

The Programme will invite twelve (12) Customs officials from Member administrations whose qualifications meet the criteria set out in the attached documents. In this regard, I kindly request that your Administration identify and nominate not more than two candidates to ensure optimal candidate selection and success of the Programme.

To be eligible, applicants are requested to submit a project proposal that (i) sets out a Customs-relevant analytics topic; (ii) explains current data-use challenges; (iii) outlines problem-solving methodologies and required technical skills; and (iv) describes expected outcomes. An interview may be arranged for the final selection following document evaluation, to identify candidates with strong potential. Please note that the Administration must support the candidate’s application with a formal statement from the Director General confirming that the trained official will be assigned to the relevant work area after completing the Programme.

The nomination form should be completed and returned by e-mail as soon as possible, but no later than 21 November 2025 (no later than 6:00 p.m. Brussels time) to:

- Mr. Hyunsang Jo, BACUDA Project Manager, Implementation and Capacity Development Directorate, WCO Secretariat: Hyunsang.Jo@wcoomd.org;
- Mr. Dimitrios Politopoulos, Project Lead Officer, Implementation and Capacity Development Directorate, WCO Secretariat: Dimitrios.POLITOPOULOS@wcoomd.org.

The Programme will cover all participation-related expenses for selected candidates (tuition, transport, accommodation, etc.). The Programme will provide a basic level of medical insurance for each participant. Please be advised that the WCO does not cover the risk of accidents, hospitalization costs, or medical repatriation. Additionally, the responsibility for visa arrangements lies with participants. Please find attached documents explaining the administrative provisions governing the Programme, as well as the nomination form.

Should you require any additional information regarding the workshop, your staff may contact the above-mentioned officials from the WCO Secretariat, respectively.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your continued and valuable support for the capacity-building activities of the WCO.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Saunders
Secretary General

Annexes:

1. General presentation
2. Administrative provisions
3. Nomination form; and Preliminary curriculum