

## **Open Call: New coordinator and venue for the advanced IOCCG Summer Lecture Series (SLS): *Frontiers in ocean optics and ocean colour science* from 2026 onward**

Following a recent Executive Committee decision to make some important changes to the modality of implementation of the IOCCG Summer Lecture Series (SLS), IOCCG is seeking applications from **volunteer coordinator or coordinators** associated with a suitable venue to champion future editions of the 2-week advanced IOCCG Summer Lecture Series (SLS) at their institution. Previous hosts of the SLS and past applicants can reapply.

The SLS coordinator is a strong ocean colour scientist who will shape the future of the lecture series, and will ensure the SLS remains grounded in the fundamental and universal science and concepts in ocean optics and ocean colour radiometry. The coordinator's role includes shaping the course structure and identifying colleagues to share teaching on inherent optical properties (absorption, attenuation and scatter); apparent optical properties; radiative transfer in the ocean, atmospheric correction, and other topics that can be applied across the various remote and in-situ ocean colour missions and data acquisition and processing methods.

The SLS coordinator(s) should be affiliated with an institution that has the capacity to act as the venue for the SLS in the coming years (see venue criteria below). The coordinator(s) also help(s) to solicit funding for the course (IOCCG provides partial funding) and is/are on site at their host institution to help to lead the course, and execute and manage course logistics for the duration of the SLS. The coordinator(s) work(s) closely with the IOCCG Project Office, which manages advertisement of the SLS, online applications, and notifications of applicants, through the IOCCG website and software tools. The SLS coordinator(s) is/are also expected to keep the IOCCG Committee updated on the plans for each SLS at the annual Committee Meeting, and to complete a short report after each SLS has been completed.

### **Requirements of the coordinator's proposed venue**

The SLS coordinator should be affiliated with a host institution or venue. Ideally, the proposed venue should:

1. Be able to comfortably accommodate 20-30 students for 2 weeks during the northern hemisphere summer, including housing
2. Be able to comfortably accommodate 10-12 lecturers on site, or in nearby external accommodation to make a daily commute accessible
3. Be accessible to an international in-person audience (proximity to international airport/international train or bus stations)
4. Have lab space (with access to running water) for in-lab practicals on fundamentals of light/absorption/attenuation/backscattering (access to AC-S instruments or other cutting-edge instrumentation is preferable)

5. Have high bandwidth and good internet connectivity (e.g. for download and access to hyperspectral satellite data or other high resolution remote data)

Read the full description of the Summer Lecture Series, below.

### How to apply:

Please submit your proposal to the IOCCG Project Coordinator, Raisha Lovindeer ([raisha@ioccg.org](mailto:raisha@ioccg.org)) by **8 April 2025**. *Previous proposers for this position may indicate to Raisha Lovindeer whether their past proposal is still applicable, and should verify that any new requirements below are included.* Alternatively, previous proposers may choose to submit a new proposal.

Coordinator applications should include:

1. a brief description of the coordinator's suitability for the role
2. Their vision for how the SLS course would be structured
3. one-page CV(s)
4. the name and location of the coordinator's proposed venue for the SLS, including descriptions of how the venue meets the host requirements listed above. (Images of the facilities are welcome.)
5. Summary budget to host the 2026 SLS, itemising costs, and potential in-kind and/or external contributions (for ease, travel for students and lecturers may be excluded from the budget, but please include costs for accommodation and meals for 20 students and 10 lecturers).

Please note that coordinators and lecturers for the SLS volunteer their time as in-kind from their institutions. Applications requiring salary payments from IOCCG for coordinating the SLS will therefore be deemed *out of scope*.

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### More about the IOCCG Summer Lecture Series

The IOCCG SLS is a no-fee, two-week training event dedicated to the fundamentals of ocean optics, bio-optics and ocean colour remote sensing. The lecture series is given by senior ocean colour scientists who volunteer their time to provide lectures and practical sessions on fundamental topics and cutting edge research, focusing on current critical issues in ocean colour science. Read more about the course on the IOCCG SLS website: <https://ioccg.org/what-we-do/training-and-education/ioccg-sls/>.

### Course timing and frequency

The IOCCG prefers that each edition occurs in the Northern Hemisphere summer. It has typically been from late June to early July. This may be flexible if circumstances dictate (e.g. the SLS in 2024 was held in November), but is dependent on the availability of lecturers and the approval of the IOCCG.

The SLS is two full weeks in duration, consisting of a series of lectures followed by open discussion sessions, as well as hands-on practical/lab sessions. The last 1-2 days have typically been dedicated to specific sessions where participants are encouraged to apply

their learning to problems surrounding their own research or adjacent topics, and share their thoughts after the two-week course. Past course schedules are available on the SLS web pages. The IOCCG is open to modifications of the organisation of the lectures and practicals if desired by the coordinator(s), which can be approved once presented and discussed at IOCCG Committee Meetings.

The SLS is organized every other year, in even years. The next edition would be organized for the summer of 2026.

### **Past and future audience**

The course is open to any student or scientist with a minimum background in ocean optics and ocean colour science. All attendees possess post-graduate degrees (up to the Masters level at least), with students undertaking their PhD studies also participating. Other attendees include post-doctoral fellows or early career researchers.

The IOCCG facilitates applications through the IOCCG website, and applications typically open at the start of the year the course is held. An average of around 140 applications have been received each round. Selection of students is based on CVs, and short statements about their motivation and expectations. The final selection is based on the quality of applications received, while balancing students from countries with economies in transition and developed countries and broad representation from many countries. Applications are reviewed and students are selected by a scientific committee formed by the IOCCG.

Attendance is around 20-30 students per course, who are fully funded, either by their institution or by funds solicited by the course coordinator from course sponsors, jointly with the IOCCG Project Office.

### **Teaching staff**

The teaching staff are composed of 10-12 volunteer lecturers from all over the world, whose travel is also typically fully funded. Lecturers are senior scientists with strong leadership skills and recognized contributions in their field of expertise. They provide students with an in-depth view of their subject area, in particular outlining what has already been achieved as well as clear indications of the “hot topics” in ocean colour science where efforts should be directed preferentially in the future.

### **Administrative staff**

Administrative staff help to organize the logistics of the SLS should be available locally to assist students and lecturers upon arrival. As the lectures are recorded (see below) a staff member to assist with recording set-up would be helpful. In the past, administrative staff have been provided by the coordinator’s host venue. It is preferable that the new coordinator has access to 1-2 administrative staff members from their institution who could fill this role, as they are critical for managing logistical concerns on-site during the SLS.

## **Lecture recordings**

All presentations are audio and video recorded with the permission of the instructors and attendees, and are made available through links on the IOCCG website. It is our desire that future lectures continue to be recorded for upload and viewing through the IOCCG website, or other content creation that assists a wider audience. Past SLS host institutions have also hosted the recordings on dedicated pages through their institute website. This capability, if available, is welcomed by the proposing coordinator's institution, but is not a requirement.

## **SLS Funding**

IOCCG provides partial funding for the SLS. For past editions, IOCCG covered roughly 20-25% of the total cost. For these editions, local housing for students was provided by the host, and/or other sponsors were solicited by the SLS coordinator. Main sponsors have included CNES, EUMETSAT, OCB, SCOR, Copernicus, TPSFund, and local hosts in Villefranche (Villefranche Observatory-OOV, Institut de la mer de Villefranche-IMEV) and Hyderabad (ITCOOcean, INCOIS). The SLS is only possible if local costs (e.g. student accommodation) are covered by the coordinator's institution, are significantly subsidised, or additional external sponsors are solicited.