



# 2024-2025 OAS - UNIVERSIDAD DEL DESARROLLO SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) and the Universidad del Desarrollo in Chile have decided to support outstanding individuals from the Americas by awarding the following scholarships to pursue a certificate in Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

## SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

**PROGRAMS:** [dLab Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Certificate](#)

**MODALITY:** Online (Chile)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**DURATION:** 4 months

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** January 31, 2025

- BENEFITS:**
- The GS/OAS and the University shall contribute 90% of the total course fee per selected candidate.
  - The selected candidates will be responsible for USD 400 to cover the remaining cost of the course fee.

## ABOUT THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

The General Secretariat of the OAS (GS/OAS) is the central and permanent organ of the [Organization of American States](#) (OAS). Through its Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE), the GS/OAS supports [Member States](#) in creating policies and implementing programs that promote the development of human capabilities at all educational levels. By enabling educational opportunities for citizens, DHDEE strengthens democratic values and security within the framework of regional integration. DHDEE does this by: (i) supporting the efforts of OAS member states to improve quality and equity in education; and (ii) helping the citizens of the Americas to develop their full potential by providing them with access to knowledge and skills through training that improves the living standards of individuals, families and communities in the region.

[Universidad del Desarrollo](#) (UDD) is a leading, private university based in Santiago, Chile with over 16,000 undergraduate students and more than 3,000 students at postgraduate level. UDD has campuses in two different cities in Chile (Santiago and Concepcion), as well as an increasing number of online programs and courses which are offered to students in Latin America and globally. UDD has developed a complex ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship including its own in-house startup accelerator (UDD Ventures), as well as providing multiple opportunities for students to take part in formal and informal programs related to these areas. In turn, UDD is very well connected with the public and private organizations that support innovation and entrepreneurship in Chile as well as in the wider region.

iCubo is UDD's Innovation and Interdisciplinary Institute which was founded in 2010 by 3 Faculties: Engineering, Business and Design. iCubo focuses on teaching innovation at undergraduate, postgraduate and in-company level, as well as creating a groundbreaking strategy to roll out interdisciplinary learning modules, which now is a part of UDD students' core curriculum from 2021 onwards.

## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE COURSE

The Course will start online, through the UDD's online teaching platform, Canvas, from **April 30 – August 30, 2025**

The overriding theme of this course will be Sustainability/Climate Change and how innovation can be used to reduce the effects of what is happening, as well helping to prevent and mitigate this phenomenon. In this sense we will be focusing on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, namely SDG 13 which focuses on Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. The innovation projects you develop will center on this theme. We invite you to begin to read around this SDG and to begin to think of any areas of interest you might have for a group project.

During the course we will also be inviting experts in innovation to speak about their projects, as well as connecting you with the innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem at UDD and in Chile.

The course will be delivered 100% online via a world class Learning Management System - Canvas, used by some of the world's top universities. In addition, we will be incorporating other innovative online teaching tools and platforms to make your learning experience even more memorable. I wish you all the best and very much look forward to meeting you very soon.

All students who successfully complete the program will receive a formal certificate issued by the Universidad del Desarrollo.

## PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Interested applicants must:

1. Be a citizen or permanent resident of an OAS member state, except Chile.
2. Have a strong interest in innovation and entrepreneurship.
3. Innovative resilience building business concepts closely linked to climate or environmental resilience is especially encouraged.
4. Have the ability to 'think outside the box,' exhibit critical thinking skills, and have a quest for discovery or investigative learning.
5. Demonstrative the ability to lead and inspire others.
6. Be a young professional who has developed or in the process of developing a small or medium enterprise in the Caribbean.
7. Have a strong background in business management.
8. Be proficient in English.
9. Commit to at least 4.5 hours a week to the course over a one-semester period that will consist of synchronous (live) and asynchronous content.
10. Have access to a computer with a reliable Internet connection, with appropriate video and audio functions.
11. Commit to covering the remaining course fee of USD 400 to the UDD.

### **Education requirements:**

Have completed or in the final years of an undergraduate business management program at an accredited institution or have at least a minimum of four (4) GCE or equivalent A' Level passes plus two years of relevant business management experience.

For more information about the UDD and the Course, please see [here](#)

# APPLICATION PROCESS

## 1. Gather supporting documents:

Applicants are required to include the following supporting documents when applying through the link below:

1. A **copy of a government issued ID** (Passport ID page or National ID Card).
2. A signed and dated **recommendation letter** from an academic advisor or business leader that informs of the leadership potential of the participant and the participant's potential for succeeding in this Course.
3. A **one-page outline** of an innovative resilient building business concept that solves an identified problem or addresses a need in the market.
4. An **updated CV or resume**, which includes educational background and experience. Professional development training certificates and awards in innovation and entrepreneurship should also be included, if available.
5. Proof of English – **Proof of English Proficiency**, if applicable – students whose native language is not English will be required to submit one of the following as proof of English proficiency:
  - a. A copy of an official transcript verifying completion of studies in an English-speaking university or college in the last five years;
  - b. A test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a score of 570 or higher for the paper-based test, 230 for computer-based test, or an internet-based TOEFL (IBT) score of at least 79;
  - c. IELTS 6.5, or the equivalent.
6. **Proof of Additional Funds** – proof that you have sufficient funds to cover remaining USD 400 not covered by the scholarship by including one, or a combination, of the following documents with your scholarship application:
  - a. a copy of a rental agreement on property showing you as the property owner;
  - b. a copy of a bank statement or bank letter;
  - c. a letter from an employer showing a monthly or yearly salary to be received based on study leave with pay;
  - d. a letter showing a student loan or additional scholarship(s), grants, financial aid.

Please note:

- ✓ ALL the required documents must be combined into one (1) single PDF file (no larger than 5MB). If the file is larger than 5MB, you will not be able to submit the online form. The application system does not allow for more than one document to be uploaded.
- ✓ Do not include any additional documents not listed above.
- ✓ Supporting documents sent via email will not be accepted.
- ✓ All documents must be in English or translated to English

## APPLICATION DEADLINE AND LINK

Applicants should submit a complete online application package, including all supporting documents above, to the OAS via the link no later than **January 31, 2025**.

**OAS Scholarship Application link:** [Organization of American States \(oas.org\)](https://www.oas.org)

## EXPENSES NOT COVERED BY THIS SCHOLARSHIP

Expenses not covered by this scholarship, and which are the sole responsibility of the scholarship recipients, are:

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<b>FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS</b>	⊗	Remaining course fee of USD 400;
	⊗	Study materials or equipment;
	⊗	Internet access; and
	⊗	Any additional fees not included in the OAS-UDD Scholarship offer.

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## SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION

The OAS and the UDD will form a specialized committee to select the scholarship recipients. The elements that will be considered in awarding the scholarships include the following aspects:

- Geographic distribution of the candidates;
- Profile, including education, project outline, recommendation;
- Applicant's potential impact on the completion of the course; and
- Gender distribution.

A **scholarship selection committee** will pre-select participants based on the above profile.

**Pre-selected participants** will be contacted via email to participate in an interview with the scholarship selection committee, if necessary, in English.

**Final selected participants** will be contacted via email to inform of the scholarship offer. Selected participants will be required to sign a formal OAS acceptance form.

### Publication of OAS-UDD Scholarship Results

The publication of the results of the selected candidates will be made available at [www.oas.org/scholarships](https://www.oas.org/scholarships) by **March 2025**. OAS will contact selected applicants by email with

the scholarship offer and instructions for acceptance of the scholarship. Unsuccessful applicants will not be contacted.

## ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for this scholarship opportunity, the applicant must:

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of an active OAS member state, except Chile.
- The following applicants are **not** eligible:
  - Current OAS Scholarship recipients.
  - GS/OAS staff and their immediate family members or GS/OAS consultants.
  - Permanent OAS staff members and their immediate family members.

## DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

1. Commit to covering the remaining course fee of USD 400 to the UDD.
2. The scholarship will be formally awarded only after the selected scholarship recipients have signed an OAS Acceptance Form, in which the recipients formally accept the scholarship and agree to its terms and conditions.
3. Refrain from engaging in activities that are incompatible with their status as an OAS Scholarship recipient, in accordance with the rules set forth in this Acceptance Form.
4. Comply with all academic guidelines requested by UDD and submit to any updates to those guidelines and requirements made by the academic authorities of the UDD.
5. The scholarship recipient may decline the scholarship prior to the program start date without financial penalty. However, if the scholarship is declined after that date without proof of force majeure, the OAS and the UDD may require the scholarship recipient to repay all funds awarded under the scholarship at the time the relinquishment is processed.

## SCHOLARSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding this scholarship opportunity should be sent to [scholarships@oas.org](mailto:scholarships@oas.org) with the subject "OAS-UDD Scholarship Program."

### For more information



[www.oas.org/scholarships](http://www.oas.org/scholarships)




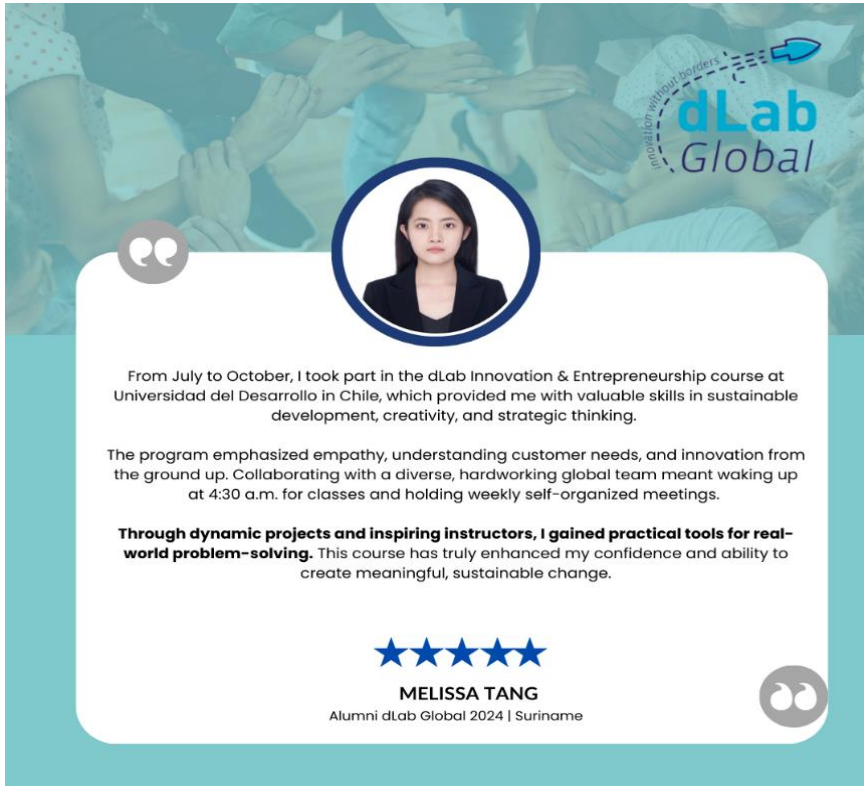
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@OASscholarships

*Note: The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) reserves the right to cancel this scholarship announcement at any time during the process. The GS/OAS and its staff will not be responsible for any action that derives from the information in this announcement.*

# TESTIMONIES FROM RECIPIENTS




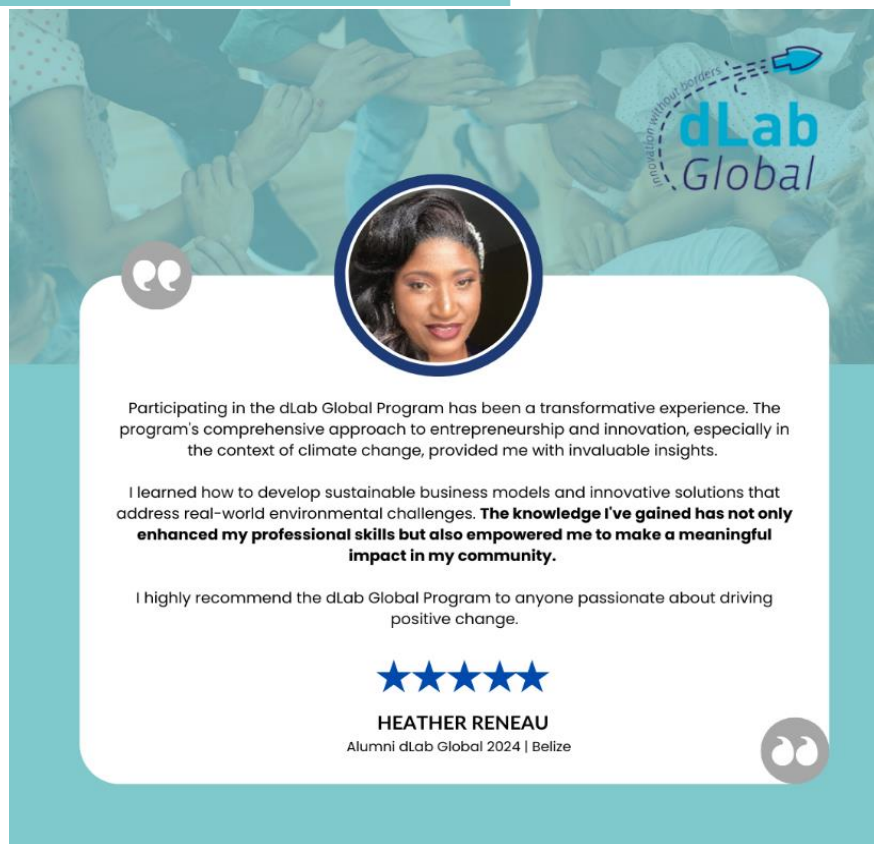
From July to October, I took part in the dLab Innovation & Entrepreneurship course at Universidad del Desarrollo in Chile, which provided me with valuable skills in sustainable development, creativity, and strategic thinking.

The program emphasized empathy, understanding customer needs, and innovation from the ground up. Collaborating with a diverse, hardworking global team meant waking up at 4:30 a.m. for classes and holding weekly self-organized meetings.

**Through dynamic projects and inspiring instructors, I gained practical tools for real-world problem-solving.** This course has truly enhanced my confidence and ability to create meaningful, sustainable change.

★★★★★

**MELISSA TANG**  
Alumni dLab Global 2024 | Suriname



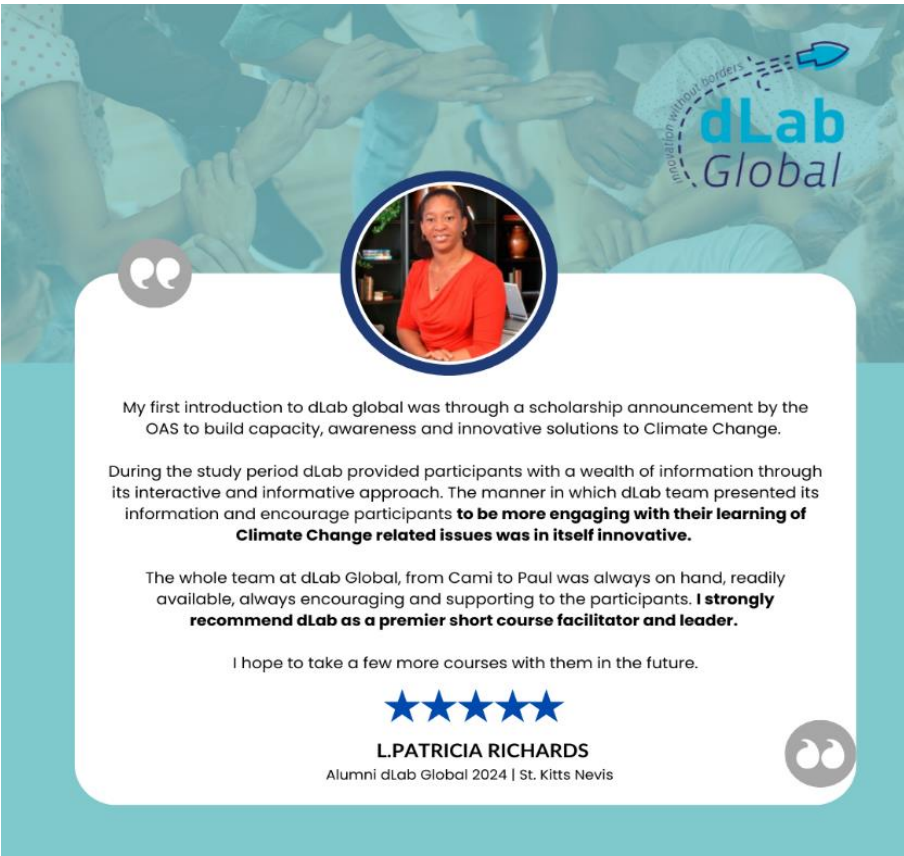
Participating in the dLab Global Program has been a transformative experience. The program's comprehensive approach to entrepreneurship and innovation, especially in the context of climate change, provided me with invaluable insights.

I learned how to develop sustainable business models and innovative solutions that address real-world environmental challenges. **The knowledge I've gained has not only enhanced my professional skills but also empowered me to make a meaningful impact in my community.**


I highly recommend the dLab Global Program to anyone passionate about driving positive change.

★★★★★

**HEATHER RENEAU**  
Alumni dLab Global 2024 | Belize



**dLab Global**  
Innovation without borders



My first introduction to dLab global was through a scholarship announcement by the OAS to build capacity, awareness and innovative solutions to Climate Change.

During the study period dLab provided participants with a wealth of information through its interactive and informative approach. The manner in which dLab team presented its information and encourage participants **to be more engaging with their learning of Climate Change related issues was in itself innovative.**

The whole team at dLab Global, from Cami to Paul was always on hand, readily available, always encouraging and supporting to the participants. **I strongly recommend dLab as a premier short course facilitator and leader.**

I hope to take a few more courses with them in the future.

★★★★★

**L.PATRICIA RICHARDS**  
Alumni dLab Global 2024 | St. Kitts Nevis



**dLab Global**  
Innovation without borders



I would like to express and extend a standing ovation and round of applause to both the faculty, lecturers and to the Entrepreneurs guest speakers who were in our Masterclass at the Universidad del Desarrollo.

My journey began in the month of June 2024, I embarked on this new adventure, not knowing all that it would entail, however, as I delved deeper into learning about the impacts of Climate Change and that I can be part of the Solution via innovation, was indeed fascinating.

**The online classes offered a repertoire of learning skills and diversity through the many Caribbean Countries, which was afforded the scholarship, added much quality to enhance my learning skills.** The dedication of the Staff of OAS was indeed admirable. I thus acquired not just a skill but a way of life to combat Climate change ,whilst becoming an all round innovator.

I am forever grateful for this experience. Would I encourage others to join the dlab Entrepreneurship and Innovation Course in the future? A definite YES!!! There is no barrier, to learning online, especially when you have the vehicle of the Universidad del Desarrollo in Chile taking you to your desired destination.

★★★★★

**KESHA JOHN**  
Alumni dLab Global 2024 | Trinidad and Tobago









The dLab Global Course proved to be indeed a real positive experience for me. I was very apprehensive when I realized the dynamic of the course, taking into consideration the distance between us, the participants. **But miracles can happen when the will is strong.**

It was amazing to work with the ladies of Innovation Mavericks and we had the privilege to have the expert guidance of our Tutor Mr. Paul O'Toole and all the other Tutors.

Having been **able to create an innovative product that has a great potential** to save lives during an emergency is gratifying. We learned and shared many concepts and techniques to do just that.

Will I recommend the course? **100 percent!**

★★★★★

**ANA JOSEPH POLYTE**  
Alumni dLab Global 2024 | Saint Lucia









As a citizen and business owner (Sea World Guest House) of the Commonwealth of Dominica who have been a victim of high sea surges for many years as a result of Climate Change. Climate Change has been evident throughout the world causing many natural disasters.

As a Climate Guardian/student at dLab for four months, my group was pleased for such thorough training on innovative ways to arrive at the best solutions for coastal floodings from empathy to implementation. **Our tutors and coach equipped us with the knowledge, ideas, strategies and drive to strive for a safer and more sustainable Caribbean.** We learned how to effectively prepare and present our solutions. The prototyping phase was very interesting, as we were able to design and test the actual curved wall and wave breaker, the best solutions for the problem of high sea surges that will work.

The Climate Guardians are now able to sell the solutions to governments, NGO and businesses for a safer and more sustainable Caribbean, especially Dominica where flooding and hurricanes are so prevalent.

Our solutions will definitely afford businesses better peace of mind by minimizing the effects of high sea surges instead of having to relocate to safer zones. We will choose to build safer with our innovative ideas.

★★★★★

**DECIMA VALENTINE SHARPLIS**  
Alumni dLab Global 2024 | Dominica

