

Schmidt Ocean Institute Opportunity Aboard R/V *Falkor (too)* in Collaboration with @SeaNetwork and NF-POGO Shipboard Training Programme



[Schmidt Ocean Institute](#)'s mission is to catalyze the discoveries needed to understand our ocean, sustain life, and ensure the health of our planet through the pursuit of impactful scientific research and intelligent observation, technological advancement, open sharing of information, and public engagement at the highest levels of international excellence. The Institute operates the state-of-the-art 110m research vessel *Falkor (too)*, currently operating in the South Atlantic.

One berth is available aboard R/V *Falkor (too)* for a student from the [@SeaNetwork](#), with the possibility of travel support from the [NF-POGO Shipboard Training Programme](#).

The student selected for this opportunity will be matched with a member of the research team to receive mentorship and hands-on involvement with research on the expedition. Applicants will possess experience in oceanography, biogeochemistry, marine technology, carbon/nutrient cycling, or climate modeling. Details of the expedition are as follows:

Topic: Subtropical underwater biogeochemistry and subsurface export

Scheduled departure - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - March 3, 2026

Scheduled arrival - Salvador, Brazil - April 6, 2026

***Expeditions dates are subject to change.

During this 35-day expedition, a team of international collaborators will investigate nutrient exchange between the photic and twilight zones within the South Atlantic subtropical gyre. The team will deploy a variety of instruments to conduct the project, including R/V *Falkor (too)*'s CTD rosette, drifters, gliders, floats, McClane pumps, and a wirewalker profiler. The data

collected will lead to a better understanding of the role of subtropical gyre ecosystems in nutrient cycles, supporting a more accurate assessment of carbon export to the deep sea.

Application Process

Applicants must be enrolled in a University graduate program and actively studying ocean science or marine technology. Highest priority is given to applicants from South America, and in particular from Brazil.

To apply, please send the following information in a single email to

proposals@schmidttocean.org:

1. Motivation Statement (1 page). Describe why you are interested in participating in this expedition, what you hope to gain from it, and how it will impact your research.
2. Recommendation Letter. A supervisor, advisor, or faculty from your institution describing their support for your application on institutional letterhead, dated, and signed.
3. Resume/CV (2 page maximum) in PDF format, detailing relevant experience, publications, and previous training.

Schmidt Ocean Institute provides berthing aboard R/V *Falkor (too)* and meals on board.

Applicants must hold a passport valid for at least six months beyond the expedition dates and must either not require a visa for Brazil or already hold one. The visa must allow multiple entries and cover the full expedition period. Applicants are responsible for confirming their visa requirements before applying.

For Brazilian Student Applicants based in Brazil:

Applicants will be required to secure funds for travel, accommodations (if required) before and after embarking/disembarking the vessel, and medical and travel insurance. The selected applicant is required to procure travel insurance for the period on board; this may be provided by the trainee's home institution or purchased independently.

For non-Brazilian Applicants and Applicants based outside Brazil:

The Nippon Foundation (NF) - Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO) Shipboard Training Programme will support travel costs for one non-Brazilian trainee to join the cruise.

Who can apply for NF-POGO funding?

In addition to the eligibility requirements above, candidates interested in NF-POGO funding must:

- Be a citizen of, and currently residing in, a developing country, as defined by the [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\) of the OECD](#). To promote international mobility and cross-regional capacity development, preference will be given to **non-Brazilian applicants and to applicants based outside Brazil**.

- Clearly state in the email submitted to proposals@schmidttocean.org that NF-POGO support is required and include, as part of the application, an additional letter explaining how their participation will contribute to sustained capacity development at their home institution and/or country.

What is covered by NF-POGO?

- Airfare between the trainee's home country and the departure/arrival ports.
- Accommodation and subsistence for the day before joining and/or after leaving the ship (if required).

What is NOT covered by NF-POGO?

- Domestic travel within the trainee's country.
- Personal expenses incurred at trainee's country or during transit.
- Visa costs, personal insurance, or vaccines.
- Salary.

All documents must be in English.

Only complete applications will be considered.

Applications must be received by January 29, 2026 (23:59 UTC).