

Job title: Research Associate (or Research Assistant), for Safe Operation of MASS

Organizational Unit: Research

Grade: not relevant

Duty Station: Malmö, Sweden

Duration of contract: 10 months ~ 12 months fixed-term appointment, starting from 1st

March 2026 or as agreed

1. Organizational setting

The World Maritime University (WMU) is a postgraduate and research university established in 1983 by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a specialized agency of the United Nations. WMU offers M.Sc. and Ph.D. programmes, Postgraduate Diplomas, and Professional Development Courses (PDCs) with the highest standards in maritime and ocean education and training. WMU also has a highly respected research programme supported by specialized research groups across the maritime and ocean fields.

This position falls within the Research Unit at WMU's headquarters in Malmö, Sweden.

2. Main purpose

Korea Maritime Transportation Safety Authority (KOMSA) is a government organization mainly in charge of ship safety management and marine environmental carbon neutral policy in Korea, and the WMU-KOMSA joint project aims to develop a risk assessment framework for the safe operation of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ship (MASS).

The incumbent will work for the WMU-KOMSA research project “The Safety of Autonomous Ships and Arctic Shipping” by *focusing on MASS Risk Assessment*¹, under the overall supervision of Associate Professor Dr. Chong-Ju Chae.

The WMU-KOMSA joint research project will begin its first year of research in 2026, and through continued research collaboration, plan to refine and further advance the relevant research areas in accordance with mutual agreement between WMU and KOMSA. The main research activities for 2026 are as follows:

- Analysis of international regulations and technical standards related to MASS,
- Review of domestic and international safety assessment procedures and relevant case studies,

- Review of risk assessment methodologies applicable to autonomous ships,
- Design of components of the safety assessment framework, including indicators, modelling approaches, and evaluation procedures,
- Review and feedback on KOMSA's feasibility study for the establishment of a Support Center for Autonomous Ship Commercialization.
- Preparation of Research Outputs, including reports, conference presentations.
- Contribute to establishing a collaborative research system and future directions between WMU and KOMSA.

Furthermore, the incumbent will participate in the preparation and execution of the WMU Maritime Affairs Conference 2026. The Research Associate (or Research Assistant) is expected to contribute to the above areas of the research project. As a researcher, the incumbent is not expected to contribute to teaching activities at WMU.

3. Working relationships

Internal contacts – Incumbent liaises and interacts primarily with the supervisor and dispatched researcher from KOMSA on a regular basis, as well as with support staff related to the project.

External contacts – Incumbent liaises with the KOMSA project partners, as well as scientific journals and publishing entities, as appropriate.

4. Duties, responsibilities

Responsibilities

The Research Associate (or Research Assistant) is expected to be engaged in:

- Research activities within the scope of work in the project agreement between WMU-KOMSA and related coordination with external partners;
- Prepare and write a project report. scholarship in the form of a report, publications in peer-reviewed journals, or book chapters;
- Presentation of research findings at international conferences and meetings;
- Work as one of the staff to prepare the WMU Maritime Affairs Conference 2026
- Mentoring of MSc students and supervision of research dissertations in areas related to the project (Only apply to Research Associate).
- Preparation of monthly base research reports. To support this process, the candidate will be required to provide regular progress reports to the supervisor on assigned tasks.

5. Minimum requirements – education, experience and language skills

Applicants should have strong risk assessment skills for the safe operation of ships. A PhD degree in a research field related to safety engineering, risk assessment is required for the Research Associate position; if the position is not filled, candidates with a relevant master's degree will be considered at the Research Assistant level. Applicants with a background in engineering, applied science, safety engineering, seafarer experience, maritime knowledge or a related field are preferred.

Applicants should also have

- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a professional research team

- Effective organizational skills to manage time and priorities in research as appropriate;
- Ability to act as a point of contact for problems/enquiries from industry partners, peer researchers, and also students;
- Ability to work in a multicultural environment and to demonstrate gender-sensitive and non-discriminatory behaviour and attitudes;

Language wise, the applicants should be fluent in spoken and written English.

No working experience is required, but detailed knowledge in risk assessment for ship operation and experience publishing related article to related journal would be an advantage.

This vacancy is open to male and female candidates. WMU seeks to increase the number of women at all levels and, therefore, qualified women are particularly encouraged to apply. WMU will make every effort to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities.

Application

The position offers a monthly stipend of 17,000-23,000 to Research Assistants (without PhD), and 34,000-42000 to Research Associates (with PhD), 23,000 - 34,000 SEK, which is free of income tax in Sweden. Applicants must fill in the application form, which can be found at <https://www.wmu.se/docs/personal-history-form>. Should send a letter of interest, a complete CV, and the contact information of two referees to Ms. Gina Tolnai, Human Resources Manager (hr@wmu.se).

Deadline for Applications: 25th February 2026