

World Maritime University

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WMU in the News

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6-28-1988

## The first five years

International Maritime Organization

World Maritime University

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at WMU  
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- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Malta
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Peru
- Philippines
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Republic of Korea
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Sweden
- Thailand
- Togo
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Uruguay
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Western Samoa
- Yemen Arab Republic
- Yugoslavia
- Zaire
- Zambia





## *Foreword*

The foundation of the World Maritime University five years ago was a bold and imaginative action that demonstrated the ability of the nations of the world, acting within the forum of IMO, to take quick and positive action for the common good. The IMO Assembly decided to establish the University in November 1981. Barely 18 months later the University was in being.

It is doubtful if any academic institution has been brought into being so quickly and immense credit must be given to the Government of Sweden, the City of Malmö and the United Nations Development Programme for their unwavering support for the University. But even so, when the first students and staff gathered in Malmö in July 1983, nobody was quite sure how the project would evolve. Would it meet the requirements of the developing countries it was established to serve? Would its courses provide what was needed? Could finance be secured? Would students actually come?

There were many uncertainties: but I think that even those who were most confident about the future of the University could not have foreseen the success it has achieved in such a short time. Some 97 countries have now sent students to the University. They now come from the established maritime nations as well as the developing countries, thus indicating the wide appeal of courses offered. Many of the several hundred graduates of the University have already taken on high responsibilities in their home countries and last November no fewer than 12 of them attended the IMO Assembly as delegates.

This demonstrates the high quality of the students who have been sent to Malmö. It also proves the importance which IMO's Member Governments attach to the University. They recognize its value and the benefits it can offer to men and woman who are sent there – and the benefits which will be received from them when they return home. That is why the World Maritime University, although young, has already proved its value. I am convinced that even greater success awaits the World Maritime University in the future.

**C.P. SRIVASTAVA**  
**Secretary-General, International**  
**Maritime Organization**  
**Chancellor, World Maritime University**

*Mr. C.P. Srivastava*

hn, Cynthia Mrigate and



IMO Headquarters in London



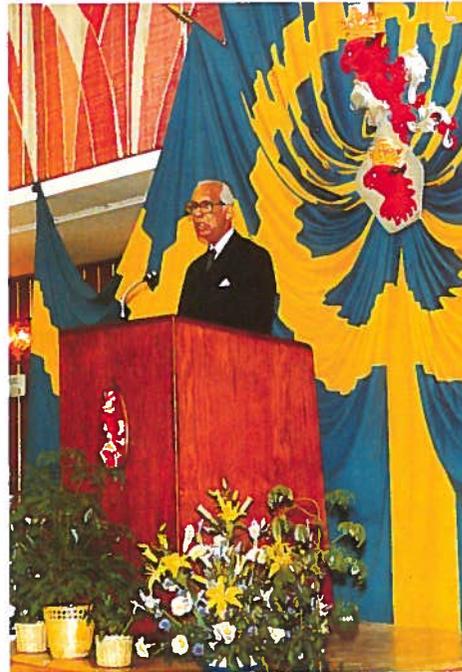
The University campus in summer....

## The Beginning

World Maritime University started operating on 4 July 1983.

Many supporting forces, orchestrated by the IMO Secretary-General Mr. C.P. Srivastava, united in the setting up of WMU faster and more efficiently than anybody could expect – barely 18 months after the decision of the IMO Assembly to start the project.

The success was also due in great measure to the strong support of the Government of Sweden and the City of Malmö.



The Chancellor Mr. C.P. Srivastava at the Inauguration of WMU, 4 July 1983.

The opportunity of combining the development of modern international standards for shipping with adequate postgraduate education was too good to be stopped by administrative or financial difficulties.

The coming into being of WMU is an achievement and a significant example of the spirit of cooperation and understanding which has always been the hallmark of IMO.

....and in winter.



## *The Academic Programme*

The entry requirements are high. A student must be either a Master Mariner or a Chief Engineer, or have an academic degree. An Admissions Board screens all applications very carefully and as the demand for places at WMU steadily increases careful account is taken, in selecting students for admission, of their intended future role in their country's maritime sector

The World Maritime University offers two year courses leading to the Master of Science degree.

Courses begin in mid-March for first year students and run until mid-December. After a two-month home leave break, students return early in February to complete their final year which ends with graduation in mid-December. Additionally there is a short break between semesters in mid-July.

The first semester is basically devoted to introductory courses and lectures – many offered by visiting professors and to a large extent common to all courses.

After the brief interval in July the second semester is mainly devoted to specialization along the lines of the course chosen, adding the identification of a suitable subject for a written report by each student.

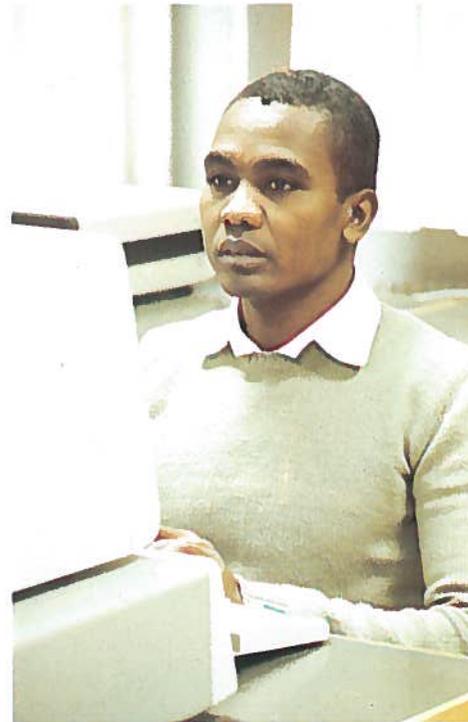


*Computer training at WMU.*

*Field training.*



*Students at work - two years of concentrated study and dedication*



## *Students and Staff*

WMU is truly a global institution.

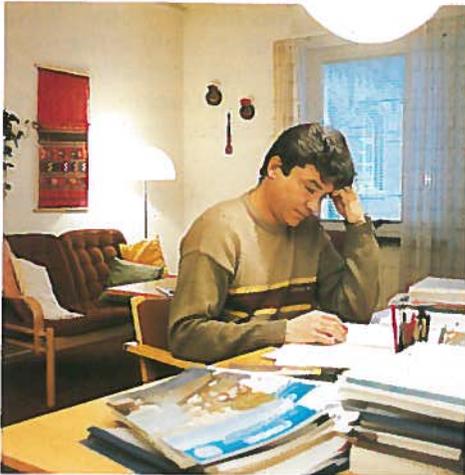
The 300 graduates and the 200 students now in Malmö represent 97 DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES. The staff numbers 42, and adds a further 12 nationalities.

WMU starts where higher maritime training in most countries of the world ends. It is not designed for school leavers – but for men and women who have already chosen their careers. That is why the average age of students (of whom a reasonable number are women) is as high as 35 years.

WMU educates the future vanguard of shipping of tomorrow.

In addition the international setting develops in each student a true United Nations spirit of cooperation and peace.

Seafaring breeds tolerance – WMU enhances it.



*The Academic Council*

## The Library

The library officially opened one year after the inauguration of the University. It began with a collection of textbooks, a few donations and several periodical subscriptions.



*The library in the first year....*

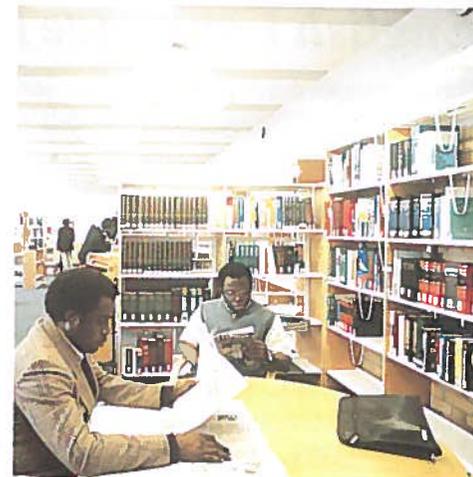


Today the library contains 5,000 volumes, subscribes to 250 periodicals, and has a growing collection of back issues of essential maritime-related periodicals.

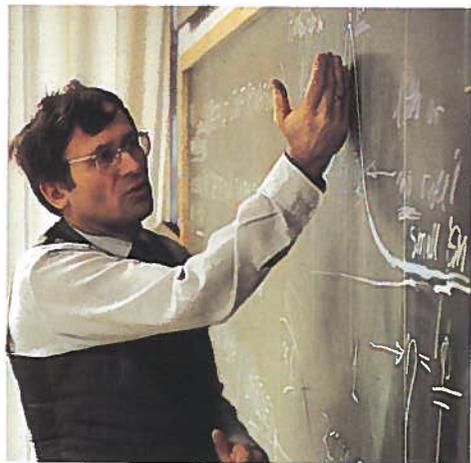
The library is a member of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) network which electronically links the University to over 6,000 libraries around the world.

Very often visitors bring books as gifts to the library and important donations in kind and in cash have been received.

During the first semester students are given several lectures by the Librarian to safeguard optimal use of the library with its growing resources.



*....and five years later.*



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*Graduation address by the Rector.*

*The graduation – an important turning point, marking the successful completion of two years of intensive study, and the challenge of returning home with enhanced qualifications and experience to face the challenges of the dynamic and competitive maritime sector.*

## *The first 5 years*

WMU is still a young institution. Experience has led to adjustments in the programme and efforts are continuously made to ensure that WMU is effectively responding to the maritime needs of developing nations.

It was stated in the first information material issued by WMU that many interests would benefit from sending students. Governments were mentioned as well as ship-owners, ports, shippers and also the environment.

What proof is there after 5 years that these benefits have actually materialized?

WMU is anxious to keep track of graduates. It maintains and encourages a strong alumni association to support continued contacts with and among graduates.

WMU receives information directly from graduates – many of whom correspond regularly with the resident staff as well as with visiting professors.

But questionnaires have also been sent out to collect information about progress of graduates.



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Maritime attaché at an embassy

Heads of divisions of merchant marine directorates

Executive director of a port authority

Port Manager of a port authority

Harbourmaster (the first national replacing an expatriate)

Director of own newly-established maritime agency

Director of own newly-established shipping agency

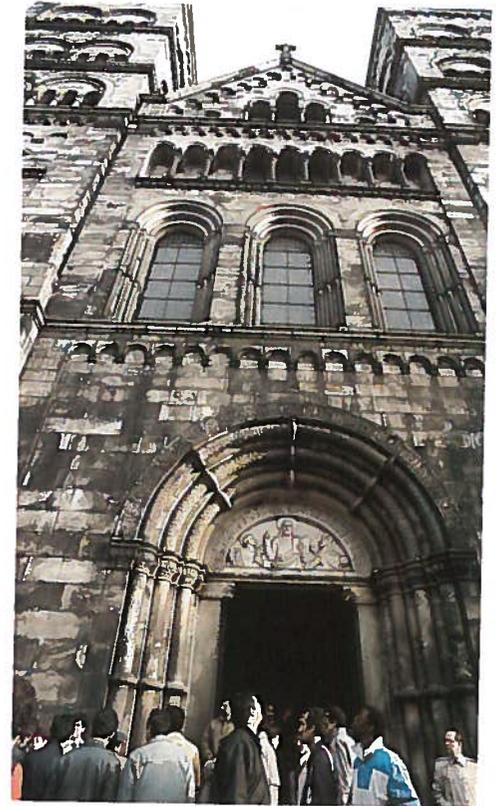


## *Additional benefits*

Most students stay at the Henrik Smith Hostel in Malmö in comfortable furnished flats. A restaurant is available five days a week.

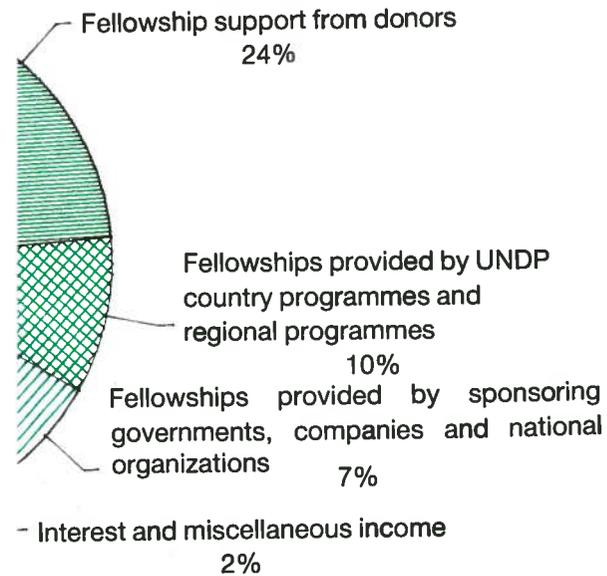
The generous City of Malmö and its inhabitants offer meaningful social activities to the students. Contacts have been established with institutions like the University of Lund and with a large number of hospitable families. Different sports and leisure activities are available at no cost and excursions are arranged to surrounding areas.

They go back different people and each of them returns with a unique network of friends all over the world. Friends who will play an important role in the shipping activities of the future.



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## FELLOWSHIP INCOME



ending students to WMU represents a considerable  
rdens to those sacrifices, WMU offers conditions to  
em to come to Malmö to stay there and return home  
senses of their own. Travel, board and lodging, a  
cash contributions are all covered by WMU.  
sts for the University are about US \$6.5 million.



## *The next 5 years*

While still a young institution WMU has gained considerable experience during its 5 years of operation and in several respects the academic activities and the contents of courses have been adjusted to meet the needs of developing countries and their students.

Two external reviews of WMU have already been undertaken; one in 1985 concentrating on the institutional and financial developments at WMU; the other in 1988 having the main task of assessing the academic programme.

Many very useful suggestions and recommendations have been made in

these two reports, of which the second one has just been made available and accordingly is still under study.

The Chancellor, the WMU Board of Governors and its Executive Council keep all WMU activities currently under review.

In accordance with a current five-year plan, WMU has now reached its full capacity with an intake of 100 students every year and a student body of 200. That level will be maintained during the coming five years. The fact that these limits have been set does not in any way mean stagnation.

The aim is to improve further the quality of the education offered at WMU,

combining in-depth theoretical studies with practical field trips and on-the-job training.

It is equally important to maintain a dialogue with developing countries and their maritime training institutions in order to safeguard that the courses offered at WMU and their contents are adapted to the changing needs of developing nations.

WMU will also continue efforts to recruit some students every year from developed countries both to maintain the truly global character of the institution and to offer students from all nations the opportunities of exchanging experiences with colleagues at WMU.