



2026 BIC Scholarship Award Winners

The winners of the 12th BIC Scholarship Program have been announced

The scholarship program was launched in 2015 to help support the container industry's leaders of tomorrow and to encourage continued focus on safety, security, standardization and sustainability in the intermodal container industry. Eligibility extends to university and maritime academy students enrolled in a program related to container transportation. Candidates were judged on the basis of academic achievement as well as an essay related to container safety, security, standardization or sustainability.

THE WINNERS OF THE 12TH ANNUAL BIC SCHOLARSHIP



Daria Jekel

University of Gothenburg, Sweden

My name is Daria Jekel, and I am originally from northern Poland. I am currently in the second year of my Master's degree in Logistics and Transport Management at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Throughout my Bachelor's in Economics I became particularly interested in maritime transport, which is why I decided to pursue my current Master's. I am fascinated by how containers connect different parts of the supply chain, and I personally find it very interesting how better coordination between different modes of transport can make freight networks not just more efficient, but also more sustainable.

Living in Gothenburg has been a great opportunity to explore these interests. From my desk at my current work, I have privileged views over the city port, and I get to see large ships filled with containers every day. And seeing them makes me wonder. There are so many, and each one of them has a unique story! It's magnificent to observe, and exciting to pursue. That is why I hope to build a career in this industry, working on projects that bring maritime and inland freight closer together, for a better, more efficient, and greener future.



Muhammad Andhika Rezki Utomo

World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden

Muhammad Andhika Rezki Utomo is an Indonesian maritime professional, researcher committed to advancing maritime safety, sustainable shipping, and human resource development. He is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Maritime Affairs at World Maritime University, Sweden, exploring the relationship between maritime labor regulations, sustainability, and safety culture.

He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Nautical Studies (Cum Laude) from the Merchant Marine Polytechnic of Makassar. He began his career as a deck officer onboard a tanker, gaining practical experience in ship operations, safety management, cargo handling, and maritime risk awareness, and later worked as an instructor at Barombong Merchant Marine Polytechnic. He now serves as a Technical Policy Reviewer at the Center for HRD on Sea Transportation, focusing on maritime training policy and education quality.



Bakary Sonko

World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden

I am Bakary Sonko. I am a maritime professional from The Gambia with over four years of experience at the Gambia Maritime Administration (GMA), where I contributed to maritime safety, environmental protection, regulatory activities, and maritime governance. I have also participated in maritime inspections, community environmental initiatives, professional training, and international maritime engagements.

I have a background in Marine Engineering and have completed specialized training in Marine Engineering and Nautical Science, aligned with the STCW Convention. I am currently pursuing an MSc in Maritime Affairs, specializing in Maritime Safety and Environmental Administration, at World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden.

Through my studies and professional experience, I am committed to strengthening maritime safety, environmental sustainability, and effective maritime governance in The Gambia and the wider maritime sector.



Marie Emilie Liland

World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden

Throughout my life, I have been passionate about the world and global affairs, and during my academic journey I opened my eyes to global trade. After working in the Global Customs Office at DHL Group in Germany, I was offered a scholarship for a Master's degree at World Maritime University in Shipping Management and Logistics.

In my BIC essay, I wanted to build on my experience and reflect on the importance of stronger connections between customs and container shipping. Currently, I am a Chartering Intern at Oldendorff Carriers, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds, both for me and for shipping and global trade.



Petra Zaitinalvi Hernst Lontoh

World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden

I am Petra Zaitinalvi Hernst Lontoh, a maritime policy professional with over four years of strategic experience at the Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia. I am currently pursuing an MSc in Maritime Affairs, specializing in Maritime Law and Policy, at World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden.

Serving within the Inspectorate General as a Strategic Advisor to the Directorate General of Sea Transportation, I have developed a strong understanding of national maritime administration and policy evaluation. As a graduate of STIP Jakarta, one of Indonesia's leading maritime academies, I combine a solid technical seafaring foundation with practical operational expertise. Driven by a commitment to strengthening the global maritime industry, I aim to integrate operational insights with rigorous legal and policy analysis.

I am honoured to have the opportunity, through the Bureau International des Containers (BIC), to share my experience and contribute to the broader international maritime dialogue.



Daria Del Roscio

University of Genoa, Italy

My name is Daria Del Roscio and I am about to complete my Bachelor's Degree in Naval Architecture at the University of Genoa, where I intend to pursue a Master's Degree in the same field.

During the course of my studies I've developed a particular interest in shipping sustainability and alternative solutions to fossil fuels. Moreover, my internship in a company that tested vessels to ensure their compliance with the current IMO's environmental regulations helped me understand better what are the aims and the future goals of these measures and why they are so important.

For these reasons in my essay I've decided to talk about a very promising initiative, that is Green Shipping Corridors. In order to do so I combined my academic knowledge with a series of researches on the matter, that I found very valuable for my personal education as well. In the future I hope to be able to contribute to the progress of decarbonisation in the shipping industry and to the design of more innovative and sustainable ships.



Hari Shankar R

Indian Maritime University (IMU), Chennai Campus, India

Hari Shankar R is a Marine Engineering graduate from the Indian Maritime University (IMU), Chennai Campus, India. His academic training has provided him with a strong foundation in marine engineering, mechanical systems, fluid dynamics, ship machinery, and maritime operations. He completed an internship at the Indian Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, gaining practical exposure to ship machinery, maintenance practices, and marine engineering operations.

His interests include digitalisation, emerging technologies, and sustainable solutions for the maritime industry. He is particularly interested in applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) to predictive maintenance, operational efficiency, smart logistics, and sustainable shipping. He aspires to contribute to the transformation of the maritime sector by combining engineering knowledge with digital innovation and sustainable practices, while continuously developing his expertise and exploring technologies that can improve the safety, efficiency, and environmental performance of global shipping.



Saba Zeenat

World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden

Saba Zeenat is pursuing an MSc in Maritime Energy Management at the World Maritime University (WMU).

She has more than two years of research experience at the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), where she served as a Research Associate, with a primary focus on sustainable ship recycling, marine environmental protection, and maritime sustainability. Her academic background includes a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Environmental Sciences from Bahria University, Pakistan. One of her major research contributions was to the Gap Analysis for the Formulation of a Capacity Building Program on Safe and Environmentally Sound Ship Recycling (SENSREC), undertaken in collaboration with the Norwegian Government. Saba brings together a strong foundation in environmental sciences, maritime research, and sustainability, with a

growing focus on addressing emerging environmental and energy challenges across the global maritime sector.

Luan Dega

University of Gothenburg, Sweden



My name is Luan Dega and I am a final-year Master's student in Logistics and Transportation Management at the University of Gothenburg (School of Business, Economics and Law), currently on an academic exchange at SKEMA Business School in Suzhou, China.

Alongside my studies, I hold a Bachelor's degree in Economics and currently work in financial advisory at a bank, where I have four years of experience. Experiencing China's dynamic trade ecosystem firsthand has deepened my passion for international freight networks. Following graduation, I look forward to building an international career in logistics, focusing on maritime transport and air freight operations.

Saurabh Karn

World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden



Saurabh Karn is a Master Mariner (Class I, MCA UK) and Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, currently completing an M.Sc. in Maritime Affairs at the World Maritime University, Malmö, Sweden, under a United Nations Fellowship.

With over a decade at sea and more than 2,100 hours in remote command of uncrewed surface vessels, his work and research center on standardisation and safety in maritime operations, and on autonomous shipping and the human-machine interface, in particular how seafaring judgment transfers to the remote operation of uncrewed and autonomous vessels. He received the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers' award for the highest global marks in its professional examinations in 2023.

Ethan White

Australian Maritime College (AMC), University of Tasmania, Australia



Ethan White is a third-year Maritime Engineering (Naval Architecture) student at the Australian Maritime College (AMC), University of Tasmania. Originally from Cairns, Queensland, Australia, Ethan has developed a strong passion for naval architecture, ship design and the future of the maritime industry.

Throughout his studies, Ethan has gained practical and research experience across ship design, hydrodynamics, marine engineering and vessel performance. His work has included shipbuilding and engineering projects, computational hydrodynamics, hull-form development and the application of machine learning to optimise vessel designs. These experiences have strengthened his interest in combining traditional naval architecture with emerging technologies to develop more efficient and innovative vessels.

Ethan is particularly interested in the design of large, high-performance yachts and innovative vessels, with the goal of pursuing an international career in naval architecture and ship design. He is honoured to be a recipient of the 2026 BIC Scholarship and grateful for the support it provides towards his education and future career in the maritime industry



Lokologang Mbanga

Constructor University, Bremen, Germany

My name is Lokologang Mbanga, and I am pursuing a Master's degree in Supply Chain Management and Logistics at Constructor University in Bremen, Germany, where I also work as a Teaching Assistant, supporting students in Business Intelligence, e-Commerce and Distribution. I am an emerging educator with a deep interest in using technology, innovation and business to solve complex problems and create meaningful societal impact.

As a public servant of South Africa, I have worked across finance and roads construction and maintenance, gaining first-hand insight into the complexities of delivering services, managing resources and developing infrastructure that communities depend on. This experience gave me a strong sense of purpose and a desire to serve and make a difference. My interests lie at the intersection of supply chain management, business intelligence, artificial intelligence, digital transformation and entrepreneurship.

Looking ahead, I want to bring together my experience in public service, infrastructure, technology, education and entrepreneurship to develop practical solutions that create value and improve the systems on which people depend. I see this as a continuation of public service: serving society through innovation and solutions that can create impact at scale.

The BIC wishes to congratulate the 2026 winners and to thank all this year's candidates for their submissions!

ABOUT THE BIC

The Bureau International des Containers (BIC) was founded under the auspices of the International Chamber of Commerce in 1933 as a neutral, non-profit, international organization. The BIC seeks to promote safety, security, standardization and sustainability in the container supply chain and today has over 3100 container owning and operating members in 130+ countries. Publisher of the BIC Code Register since 1970, the BIC also operates the BoxTech Global Container Database (bic-boxtech.org), providing API-accessible equipment details to help improve efficiency and safety in the supply chain, as well as the joint BIC - SMDG Facility Code API and Global Container Geofence Library, providing harmonized I.D. codes and geofences for terminals and depots globally. The BIC also operates the Global ACEP Database under the guidance of the IMO. The BIC holds official observer status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Customs Organization (WCO), and the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT).

Website : www.bic-code.org

Media inquiries : dow@bic-code.org

Student inquires : award@bic-code.org