

# Floating Toilets Challenge

Designing a floating toilet that promotes sanitation and health for people of Lake Chilwa.



## Background

Cholera is endemic around Lake Chilwa basin, and one possible way to reduce contamination is to **design appropriate toilets** for fishing communities.



## The Challenge

We are calling for final year undergraduates, recent graduates and postgraduate students to **form multidisciplinary teams** to develop appropriate **floating toilet prototypes**.



## Eligibility

Any students from **accredited universities** currently residing in Malawi are eligible to form teams. Teams may be formed from more than one university and can include students from undergraduate to postgraduate.



## Criteria

Each team will write a **literature review** detailing floating toilet designs in other countries. The team will then **design their prototype**, drawn to scale on A3 paper. *Note: The prototypes developed will remain property of the developers and WASHTED.*



## The Process

Teams should have some of the following expertise: environmental health, civil engineering, public health, architecture, water resources management, social science, environmental management or any other relevant field.



**Form teams:** Create multidisciplinary teams (3-5 people) from at least 3 different fields, with a team leader.



**Phase I:** Literature review and designing the prototype



**Phase II:** Field testing of the prototype [using soil instead of faecal matter at first]



**Phase III:** Assessing user friendliness, acceptability, risks and benefits of the toilet

## Selecting the winning team



Successful teams will present their models to a panel of judges. Selection will be based on:

- Literature review on floating toilet designs used elsewhere
- Use of local materials
- Protection of environmental pollution
- Promotion of environmental health
- User friendly and acceptable
- Easy to construct and maintain
- Budget for prototype and field testing

**Deadline:** List of team members and team leader must be sent to [skumwenda@poly.ac.mw](mailto:skumwenda@poly.ac.mw) by **10 November 2017**. Those registered will be expected to submit final prototypes by **15 December 2017**.