

Vacancy announcement

UN JPO Programme

JPO in Political Affairs

*United Nations Secretariat,
Department of Political Affairs,
Africa I Division, Great Lakes and Eastern Africa team*



Closing date
11 March 2018

Vacancy Announcement # 18P023

I General information

Title:	JPO in Political Affairs
Sector of Assignment:	Political Affairs
Country:	USA
Location (City):	New York
Agency:	United Nations, Department of Political Affairs, Africa I Division, Great Lakes and Eastern Africa team
Duration of Assignment:	Initially one year with the possibility to extend up to 3 years
Grade:	P1 step 1 or P2 step 1 in the first year, depending on the level of education and amount of relevant working experience

Note: This post is opened in the context of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) scheme sponsored by the Government of the Netherlands and is addressed **exclusively to candidates from developing Countries (i.e. least developed countries)**.

Candidates **MUST BE NATIONALS OF ONE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT APPEAR ON THE LIST OF THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES FOR THE DUTCH JPO PROGRAMME:**

<http://www.nedworcfoundation.nl/pdf/List%20of%20eligible%20developing%20countries%20-%202015.pdf>

For general information on the Dutch JPO Programme and additional conditions see the website of the Dutch Nedworc Foundation:

<http://www.nedworcfoundation.nl/Index.htm?hoofdpath=/NL/JPO/General%20Information.htm&hoofdhash>

Please read the criteria and FAQ section carefully before applying.

II Duties, responsibilities and Output Expectations

General: To support the work of the Department of Political Affairs, Africa I Division with a focus on the Great Lakes region and Eastern Africa.

Under the overall supervision of the Director and/or Deputy Director of the Division, and the day-to-day supervision of the Team Leader for the Great Lakes and Eastern Africa team, the incumbent monitors and assesses political developments in the Great Lakes region and provides backstopping support to the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region (OESG GL), as part of the responsibility of the Division to provide the Secretary-General and other senior UN officials with early warning and policy options for conflict prevention/resolution and post-conflict peace-building.

He/she assists in preparing background material, briefings, and analytical notes, and drafts correspondence for senior UN official as well as provides summaries of meetings and assists in drafting reports and briefings to the Security Council. He/she supports interagency and interdepartmental coordination at Headquarters-level on issues relating to the Great Lakes and OESG GL, including preparing meetings of the Working Group. The incumbent will also participate in fact-finding, preventive diplomacy or peacemaking missions, as appropriate.

Supervision of the candidate will be through a continued discussion of assignments/projects and review of results with suggestions for improvement by the Team Leader.

More specifically, under the guidance of the respective Team Leader, the incumbent

- conducts research and analysis and studies on diverse and complex political situations affecting the Great Lakes region with the aim of supporting the implementation of the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and region.
- monitors and assesses political developments aimed at generating an early warning and policy options for conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peace-building;
- assist in drafting briefing notes and talking points for the Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, as well as other senior UN official;
- provides backstopping to the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region on administrative and substantive issues;
- liaises with relevant international and regional actors.

III Training component: Learning elements and expectations

On completion of the assignment, the JPO will have an

- Increased understanding of the United Nations system, the Department of Political Affairs and multilateral politics;
- Improved research and drafting skills;
- Ability to assess the impact and implications of political and security developments;
- Ability to monitor progress in implementing peace agreements and the political situation in conflict and post-conflict situations; managing threats to peace and security; protection of civilian populations; and the ability to analyze problems and to formulate remedial action proposals;
- In-depth understanding of mediation, negotiation and conflict resolution efforts.

The UN JPO Programme includes the following learning elements:

- Possibility to participate in the orientation programme for Junior Professional Officers in Turin scheduled to take place in September 2018.
- On-arrival briefing for JPOs based in New York.
- Possibility to participate in the Organization's learning and development programmes for staff at all levels. Programmes are aimed at developing core values, core, and managerial competencies and promoting a shared organizational culture and values.
- The JPO position includes a Duty travel and training allowance (DTTA) of \$4000 per year which may be used for learning activities related to the assignment and career development.

IV Supervision

Title of supervisor:

Director of Africa I Division, DPA

Content and methodology of supervision:

Establishment of a Work Plan: During the first month of the assignment, the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) will work jointly with his/her direct supervisor to finalize an agreed upon work plan. The final work plan will be discussed and mutually agreed to by the JPO and his/her supervisor.

Evaluation: The United Nations Performance Evaluation System (e-performance) will serve as a primary platform to evaluate the JPO's performance.

V Required Qualifications and Experience

Education:

Advanced university degree in political science, international relations, international economics, law, public administration, or other related fields.

Working experience (incl. internships and volunteering):

A minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 4 years of relevant working experience is required. Knowledge of the Organization is an asset.

Languages:

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For this post, fluency in English (both oral and written) is required. Very good drafting ability in English is required. Working knowledge of French is an added advantage.

UN competencies:

Integrity - Ability to maintain impartiality and to demonstrate the values of the United Nations at all times;

Professionalism – Demonstrated ability to complete in-depth studies and reach conclusions on possible causes and solutions to political problems in the African continent;

Planning and Organizing - Proven ability to plan and organize own work and that of others;

Communication – Proven ability to write in a clear and concise manner and to communicate effectively orally;

Teamwork - Ability to interact and to establish and maintain effective working relationships with a team in a multicultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

VI Background information on Agency/Department/Section

DPA, through the work of its regional divisions, provides the Secretary-General with analytical reports and briefing notes that aim to inform his decisions and shape his continuous diplomacy with the U.N. Member States, nongovernmental organizations, and others. DPA strives to help the Secretary-General to detect and respond to potential crises before they erupt. In this respect, Africa I Division covers 27 countries, with varying problems and challenges that require the development of strategies for active engagement in early warning, conflict prevention, and post-conflict peace building. Africa I Division provides backstopping and guidance to three Special Political Missions: the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM); the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General-Burundi (OSES-B); and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region (OESG GL).

VII How to apply

To apply please go to <https://www.un.org/development/desa/jpo/jpo-vacancies/>

Applications must be received no later than COB **11 March 2018**.

Applications received after this date will not be considered. Applicants will receive a confirmation of receipt.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted thereafter for further assessment.

Evaluation of qualified candidates may include a written assessment exercise followed by competency-based interviews.