


<h1>Vacancy announcement</h1>		
<h2>UN JPO Programme</h2>		
<h3>JPO in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Crime Research)</h3>		
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Regional Office for West and Central Africa, Research and Awareness Unit		Closing date 26 April 2026 6pm EST
<u>Vacancy Announcement # 26P021</u>		
I General information		
Title:	JPO in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Crime Research)	
Sector of Assignment:	Crime Research	
Country:	Senegal	
Location (City):	Dakar	
Agency:	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Regional Office for West and Central Africa, Research and Awareness Unit	
Duration of Assignment:	Initially one year with the possibility to extend up to a maximum of 3 years	
Grade:	P2 step 1 in the first year	
<p>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 WITH CITIZENSHIP OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES:</p> <p>Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Rep. Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Palestinian Territory, Senegal, Somalia, South-Sudan, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Vietnam, Yemen eligible-countries-DC-JPOs.pdf</p> <p>Eligibility is restricted to candidates who are 32 years of age or below as of 31 December of the application year (i.e. born on or after 1 January 1994).</p> <p>For general information on the Dutch JPO Programme please visit the website of the Nedworc Foundation: Junior Professional Officer Programme - Nedworc Foundation</p> <p>Please read the criteria and FAQ section carefully before applying.</p>		
II Duties and responsibilities		
<p>Within delegated authority, the Junior Professional Officer will work under the Research and Awareness Unit and contribute directly to its research, analytical and knowledge-building activities on transnational organized crime and terrorism. The JPO will support the production of high-quality research on drugs, crime, and related thematic areas by collecting, analyzing, and presenting data and information from multiple sources</p>		

The JPO will be responsible for the following key duties:

- **Support the design, planning, coordination and implementation of research activities** on drugs and crime, including participation in field missions. This includes preparing project documents, budgets, concept notes, providing logistical coordination, delivering assigned activities, and following up on project actions.
- **Assist in data-driven research**, including the collection, organization, verification and analysis of data related to transnational organized crime. This includes contributing to geospatial analysis and other data-intensive methodologies.
- **Contribute to analytical work on transnational organized crime and terrorism**, including research on drug trafficking, firearms, medical products, gold trafficking, and crimes that affect the environment.
- **Support capacity-building initiatives** aimed at strengthening Member States' ability to produce, collect, analyze and report reliable drugs and crime statistics.
- **Participate in the development of methodological tools**, including guidelines, manuals, technical standards and other materials that facilitate improved national data production on drugs and crime.
- **Contribute to the drafting of knowledge products**, including background papers, analytical briefs, sections of reports and studies, communication materials, and inputs to UNODC flagship crime trends publications.
- **Assist in sustaining and expanding research networks** to enable cross-national trend analysis, knowledge exchange, and joint threat assessments.
- **Participate in field missions** as required to support research, data collection, capacity-building activities, or project implementation.
- **Monitor developments in criminal justice, research methodologies and related fields** to ensure the application of up-to-date analytical approaches.
- **Perform any other related duties** as assigned to support the work of the unit and UNODC's research mandate.

III Training component: Learning elements and expectations

On completion of the assignment, the JPO will have/be able to:

- **Strengthened research and analytical skills** through hands-on experience in designing, conducting and delivering research projects on drugs, crime, and related thematic areas within an international context.
- **Enhanced technical competencies in data collection, management and analysis**, including familiarity with quantitative and qualitative methodologies, geospatial analysis, and the use of UNODC data standards and tools.
- **Gained practical experience in project planning and implementation**, including drafting project documents, developing budgets, preparing concept notes, coordinating logistics, and supporting field-based research activities.
- **Developed a solid understanding of transnational organized crime dynamics**, including cross-border trafficking flows, emerging crime trends, and links to terrorism and environmental crime.
- **Acquired knowledge in capacity-building approaches**, including how to support Member States in strengthening their national systems for producing, analyzing and reporting crime and drug-related data.

- **Improved drafting and communication skills**, with the ability to prepare high-quality written outputs such as analytical briefs, background papers, report sections, and communication materials for diverse audiences.
- **Built experience in developing methodological tools**, including guidelines, manuals and technical standards used in international crime and drug statistics.
- **Expanded professional networks**, including engagement with research institutions, national statistical bodies, regional organizations, and UNODC partners working on crime and drug data.
- **Gained field exposure**, learning to apply research and analytical skills in operational and country-level contexts.
- **Deepened knowledge of UN rules, procedures and operations**, including interagency coordination, reporting requirements, and the functioning of UNODC research processes.
- **Strengthened professional competencies**, such as teamwork, planning and organizing, cross-cultural communication, and the ability to work effectively in a complex international environment.

The JPO Programme includes the following learning elements:

- Participation in the “2026 JPO Orientation Programme” organised by the United Nations System Staff College in Turin from 9 to 27 November 2026.
- Possibility to participate in the Organization’s learning and development programmes for staff at all levels. Programmes are aimed at developing core values, core competencies and promoting a shared organizational culture and values
- The JPO position includes a Duty travel and training allowance (DTTA) of \$4,000 per year which may be used for learning activities related to the assignment and to career development.

IV Supervision

Title of supervisor: Research Officer

Content and methodology of supervision

Establishment of a Work Plan: The incumbent 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 of the JPO’s performance.

Additional details on methodology of supervision:

- Introductory briefing on background and work UNODC and of UNODC Research in particular.
- Discussion and direction on assignments, including regular follow-up consultations and feedback (as often as needed).
- Continuing work-related interaction with other professional staff of the office through team meetings, staff meetings and ad hoc meetings.

V Required Qualifications and Experience

Education:

An advanced university degree (master’s degree or equivalent) in statistics, sociology, criminology, economics or any other relevant social science is required.

In exceptional cases, candidates with a first-level university degree (bachelor’s degree or equivalent) in combination with two additional years (i.e. a minimum of 4 years) of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of an advanced university degree.

Substantive parts of the candidates' academic qualification (Bachelor and/or Master) must have taken place in a country that appears on the list of eligible countries.

[eligible-countries-DC-JPOs.pdf](#)

Work experience:

A minimum of 2 years of relevant work experience in research on social science at national or international level is required (a minimum of four years with a first-level university degree (bachelor's degree or equivalent)).

Work experience on drugs and crime is desirable.

Work experience in Africa is desirable.

Work experience within the UN system should not exceed 1 year (including internships, UNV and consultancies)

Only work experience acquired **after the first-level university degree** (bachelor's degree or equivalent) can be considered.

Internships and volunteering may be counted at 50% if considered relevant.

Languages:

English and French are the working languages of the UN Secretariat. For this position, fluency in English and French is required. Knowledge of Spanish and Portuguese is an advantage.

Other skills:

Good knowledge of Microsoft Office (Excel, Word and PowerPoint) is required. Experience and knowledge of databases, statistical and research software (R, STATA, Python, NVivo or others) is an asset.

UN competencies:

PROFESSIONALISM: Shows pride in work and in achievements; Demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; Is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; Is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; Shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; Remains calm in stressful situations; Sound knowledge and practical application of research methodologies related to drugs and crime, rigor in fact-checking, analysis and drafting.

TEAMWORK: Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; Solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; Places team agenda before personal agenda; Supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position; Shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings

COMMUNICATION: Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; Listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; Asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; Tailors language, tone, style and format to match the audience; Demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed

CLIENT ORIENTATION: Considers all those to whom services are provided to be "clients" and seeks to see things from clients' point of view; Establishes and maintains productive partnerships with clients by gaining their trust and respect; Identifies clients' needs and matches them to appropriate solutions;

Monitors ongoing developments inside and outside the clients' environment to keep informed and anticipate problems; Keeps clients informed of progress or setbacks in projects; Meets timeline for delivery of products or services to client

Workforce Diversity

The United Nations believes that an inclusive culture attracts the best talent and encourages all qualified applicants, regardless of gender, disability, sexual orientation, cultural or religious backgrounds, to apply.

VI Background information on Agency/Department/Section

This position is located in the Regional Office for West and Central Africa (ROSEN) of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Dakar, Senegal. The JPO in Crime Research will report to the Research Officer heading the ROSEN Research and Awareness Unit, under the overall guidance of the UNODC ROSEN Regional Representative.

The mission of UNODC is to contribute to global peace and security, human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism. Within this overarching global mission, the ROSEN Research and Awareness Unit provides evidence-based analysis on drugs and crime trends in West and Central Africa, including by supporting Member State in producing, collecting and analyzing drugs and crime data. The Research and Awareness Unit produces flagship publications to support Member States in developing evidence-based policies to prevent and respond to drugs and crime in the following areas:

- Transnational organized crime, including firearms, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, trafficking in medical products and crimes that affect the environment;
- Drugs, including drug trafficking, drug use, prevention, treatment and reintegration, and alternative development;
- Terrorism and violent extremism;
- Corruption;
- Crime prevention and criminal justice and monitoring of SDGs in mandates areas;

VII How to apply

Applicants should submit their application **online** via:

<https://owa.undesa.it/oas/oas.aspx?CMD=START&CP=7>

More information on how to apply can also be found on the following website:

<https://jpo.desa.un.org/>

Applications must be received no later than **26 April 2026, 6.00 pm (Eastern Standard Time UTC-5, New York USA)**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Applicants will receive a confirmation of receipt.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted thereafter.