



UNITED NATIONS

ASSOCIATE EXPERTS AND
JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL
OFFICERS PROGRAMME

**United Nations
Department of Economic and Social
Affairs Office in Rome**

The Associate Experts and Junior Professional Officers Programme, also known as the JPO Programme, is a multilateral technical cooperation initiative sponsored by the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

It enables Italian citizens in possession of a university degree and under the age of 30 (33 for graduates in medicine and surgery) to gain in-field training and experience with the international organizations for a period of two years. The Programme is also open to citizens from developing countries.

The purpose of the Programme is two-fold. On the one hand, it assists the international organizations in their technical cooperation activities by providing JPO services in development initiatives. On the other, it allows young people wishing to pursue an international career to acquire on-the-job professional experience, which may lead to future career development within the organizations or in the international field.

The Programme originates from a United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution adopted in 1961 which approved and encouraged the collaboration of volunteers, financed by their respective countries of origin, in implementing development cooperation initiatives and programmes.

Italy joined the scheme in the mid-seventies, and over the years has developed it into a Programme, extending its sponsorship to the Secretariat of the United Nations and relative organs and to a number of specialised agencies in the UN system and other international organizations with which

the Italian Government stipulated specific agreements.

In 1984, an agreement with the Commission of the European Communities ratified the assignment of Italian associate experts to delegations of the Commission in associate/ partner countries (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific). To date, Italy has sponsored more than 1,500 Associate Experts and Junior Professional Officers.

Information on the Programme, the recruitment campaign and the short-listing of candidates are dealt with directly by the UN/DESA Office in Rome, in collaboration with the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

Applications to participate in the Programme must be made using the ad-hoc application form. A signed original of the form, along with a copy of the applicant's university degree certificate (including a list of examinations taken), post degree's certificates and a passport-sized photograph, **must be received** by UN/DESA Office in Rome no later than 2 November 2010 at the following address:

**Associate Experts and Junior
Professional Officers Programme Office
of Human Resources for International
Cooperation United Nations Department
of Economic and Social Affairs
(UN/DESA) Corso Vittorio Emanuele II,
251 00186 Rome**

Applications received by e-mail or fax will not be accepted.

To be eligible for short-listing, candidates must:

- have Italian citizenship or that of a

- developing country
- hold one of the following academic qualifications:
 - laurea degree (old Italian university system)
 - laurea specialistica (new Italian university system)
 - laurea (new Italian university system) followed by a Master's degree
- be aged under 30 (33 for graduates in medicine)
- possess an excellent knowledge of English and Italian; candidates holding multiple nationalities, including the Italian, will be considered as Italian candidates and will have to prove their knowledge of the Italian language. Candidates from developing countries are not required to prove the knowledge of the Italian language.

The candidates holding a bachelor degree or similar must have a Master's degree or a Maîtrise. All candidates applying for the 2010/2011 edition have to be born on or after 01/01/1980 (on or after 01/01/1977 for graduates in medicine).

In evaluating the resumé and professional background of candidates, knowledge of other foreign languages, previous work experience and the possession of further academic qualifications are considered definite assets.

The level of training and experience demanded varies greatly and depends on the requests made by the international organizations. They range from generic qualifications (jurist, economist) to more specific specialisation (experts in the fields of food, environment, development, human rights, etc.).

The preliminary assessment of candidacies for admission to the selection tests is carried out by the Human Resources for International Cooperation office. This evaluation is further examined by a UN Commission, bearing in mind candidates' university qualifications, work experience and language skills, and the types of posts the international organizations have submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and for which the latter gives its approval.

At the end of this preliminary phase, shortlisted candidates are called for a final selection interview in Rome (normally between the months of April and June) with representatives of the various international organizations.

These organizations are responsible for the final selection of candidates.

Successful candidates may be required to serve either at the headquarters of the organizations or in their overseas offices, carrying out technical cooperation projects and programmes in developing countries.

Their entry grade into the service is at the lowest level of the professional category (P2 in the case of the United Nations and the equivalent grade in other international organizations), with a one-year contract that can be renewed for a second year.

However, it must be pointed out that not only are candidates selected on a highly competitive basis, but also that recruitment is not easy to obtain when the Associate Expert or JPO contract expires.

At the end of the interview period and prior to official recruitment by the international organizations, successful candidates take part in a two-week training and guidance course at the United Nations System Staff

College.

This course provides an important opportunity to meet and exchange views for newly selected JPOs, who coming as they do from different academic backgrounds and having to work in different environments, are motivated by common interests and ideals.

For further information on the JPO Programme, please consult the web sites www.esteri.it and www.undesa.it or contact the Human Resources for International Cooperation office at the following e-mail address: JPOinfo@undesa.it or by phone calling the (+39) 06 68136320.

The following list highlights some of the Organizations that have received Junior Professional Officers and Associate Experts in the last years:

UN	Human rights, crime prevention and drug control, governance and public administration, demography, statistics, natural resources, gender issues.
EU	Economic and statistics analyses, policy development, aid coordination, development cooperation
FAO	Food and agriculture, forest genetic resources, animal production.
WFP	Food assistance programmes.
UNICEF	Women's and children's health, health education, social communication, community development.
UNDP	Aid programming and coordination, development cooperation, project development and implementation.
	UNESCO, ILO, UNHCR, IFAD, WHO, UNCTAD, ITU, UNEP, OECD and other International Organizations.