United Nations peacekeeping and political missions have evolved over time to respond to different conflicts and changing political landscapes. Civilian peacekeepers work as administrators and engineers, police officers and legal experts, economists and electoral observers, specialists in civil affairs and gender, as well as experts in information technology and public information among other specialized functions. Specialist functions include recruitment and placement, administration of contractual arrangements, as well as workforce planning, outreach and staff development and career support. Key attributes include excellent interpersonal skills, an ability to conduct independent research and analysis and produce substantive reports and recommendations on diverse HR issues.

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An advanced university degree (Master’s degree or equivalent) in human resources management, business or public administration, social sciences, education or related field is required for positions in the Professional and Higher category. A first-level university degree in combination with two years of relevant experience may be accepted in lieu of an advanced university degree. For positions in the Field Service category, a High school or equivalent diploma is required. A technical or vocational certificate in human resources management, administration or related area is required in addition to the specified experience. English and French are the working languages of the United Nations. Knowledge of a second official UN language is an advantage.

There are various career opportunities related to Administration, such as the following:

- Chief Administrative Services
- Training Officer
- Quality Assurance Officer

The United Nations fosters gender equality and encourages applications from suitably qualified and experienced women across the full range of career opportunities particularly in the more “non-traditional” field careers such as Aviation, Logistics.

About Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping is a calling that demands both personal dedication and sacrifice. Service in the cause of peace offers real opportunities to help peoples and countries recover from conflict, rebuild their societies, and enjoy the benefits of peace.

United Nations peace operations offer opportunities to make a difference, both in the world and in your own life. Working and living conditions in the field vary. If you serve in a peacekeeping or political mission, or in a humanitarian field operation, the country or region that you work and live in is likely to be emerging from conflict or an emergency situation where the conditions are more arduous; the infrastructure is weak and electricity and clean water are often in short supply. In addition, most peacekeeping, political or humanitarian missions are categorized as “non-family” duty stations, and therefore family members are unable to join the staff member at the relevant location.

Nature of our Work

Staff working in HR may either be based at a headquarters or field location, and in a variety of roles covering various specialisms. HR experts are knowledgeable about HR policies, practices and procedures. Specialist functions include recruitment and placement, administration of contractual arrangements, as well as workforce planning, outreach and staff development and career support. Key attributes include excellent interpersonal skills, an ability to conduct independent research and analysis and produce substantive reports and recommendations on diverse HR issues.

Working in the Field

United Nations peacekeeping and political missions have evolved over time to respond to different conflicts and changing political landscapes. Civilian peacekeepers work as administrators and engineers, police officers and legal experts, economists and electoral observers, specialists in civil affairs and gender, as well as experts in information technology and public information among other specialized functions. International positions have two categories, Professional and Higher and Field Service, which are distinguished by levels of responsibility as well as education and work experience requirements.

Human Resources

The Human Resources (HR) Occupational Group is part of the Human Resources Job Family and Management and Operations Support Job Network. HR is governed by the Office of Human Resource Management (OHRM) to which the Field Personnel Division (FPD) of the Department of Field Support (DFS) has delegated authority. FPD administers 400 international staff working in field operations in various HR related roles ranging from Chief Human Resources Officer to HR Assistant.

Education

An advanced university degree (Master’s degree or equivalent) in human resources management, business or public administration, social sciences, education or related field is required for positions in the Professional and Higher category. A first-level university degree in combination with two years of relevant experience may be accepted in lieu of an advanced university degree. For positions in the Field Service category, a High school or equivalent diploma is required. A technical or vocational certificate in human resources management, administration or related area is required in addition to the specified experience. English and French are the working languages of the United Nations. Knowledge of a second official UN language is an advantage.

Related Careers

There are various career opportunities related to Administration, such as the following:

- Chief Administrative Services
- Training Officer
- Quality Assurance Officer

Gender

The United Nations fosters gender equality and encourages applications from suitably qualified and experienced women across the full range of career opportunities particularly in the more “non-traditional” field careers such as Aviation, Logistics.

Helpful Links

- careers.un.org
- hr.un.org
- inspira.un.org
- point.un.org
Over time, the United Nations has increased its presence in locations all over the world. There are over 130 field offices, which include peacekeeping and political missions and humanitarian field operations, and they play an essential role in identifying, highlighting, and responding to emerging challenges. While the work may vary greatly, the one unifying factor is the opportunity to make a difference, both in the world and in your own life. Together with its partners, the UN is tasked with a variety of responsibilities, such as providing and coordinating humanitarian assistance; promoting and protecting human rights; promoting the wise stewardship of the global environment; assisting countries to combat the supply of illicit drugs, crime and corruption and; providing information on the Organization and its activities in the various locations in which it operates.

Global Workforce

Before you navigate through the existing job opportunities available online, we strongly advise that you read carefully the description of each current UN operation through the links to the mission website.

Please apply for the positions that best match your expertise, qualifications, experience and aspirations. The necessary education background/training, experience and skills to perform a specific job are explained in the qualification section of each vacancy announcement.

If you are interested in working for Peacekeeping Operations, please send your resume to Outreachforpeace@un.org and write “WRUD4P” in the subject line of your email.

* Source: Map No. 4259 Rev. 20(E), Cartographic Section, Department of Field Support, UNITED NATIONS, April 2014
** political mission

Disclaimer: due to the mobile and dynamic nature of field careers, profilees may not necessarily feature in their current positions.