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.

Medical Services

The Medical Services Occupational Group is part of the Medical Job Family which belongs to the Management and Operations Support Job Network. There are more than 160 internationally-recruited medical staff members working in multiple missions worldwide. Together, this global team addresses the physical and mental health needs of 26,400 field staff. These experts serve in various capacities such as Medical Officer, Nurse, Staff Counsellor, Pharmacist, and other roles.

Nature of our Work

A Medical Officer in field missions undertakes clinical duties such as operating a clinic or hospital, responding to emergencies, and performing periodic medical examinations, immunizations, etc. The Medical Officer also refers staff to outside specialists, oversees and provides health education and health promotion programs, and addresses work environment and occupational health issues. Positions in this field require a demonstrated, in-depth knowledge and well-rounded experience in all aspects of clinical medicine.

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.

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 or Engineering.

For Medical Officers, a Doctorate (MD) or equivalent in medicine, including residency in one of the medical specialties (preferably internal medicine) is required. Nursing positions candidates must be a Registered Professional Nurse who is a graduate of either an accredited Bachelor Nursing Programme (University) or an accredited Diploma Programme (4 years). A certificate in ECG, CPR or Basic Life Support is an asset. English and French are the working languages of the United Nations. All medical-related positions require fluency in oral and written English. Knowledge of a second official UN language is an advantage.

Related Careers

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

- Medical Officer
- Nurse
- Staff Counsellor
- Pharmacist

Helpful Links

- careers.un.org
- hr.un.org
- inspira.un.org
- point.un.org
Global Workforce

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; protecting and promoting 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.

What are you doing for peace?

Field Personnel Division,
United Nations
Department of Field Support

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.