

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****INVITATION TO APPLY FOR A FELLOWSHIP IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TO BE HELD AT THE SPIEZ LABORATORY, SWITZERLAND IN 2020****Purpose of the fellowship**

1. The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) wishes to invite Member States to nominate participants for a fellowship in organic chemistry skills development, to be held at the Spiez Laboratory in Switzerland in 2020. The fellowship will involve the synthesis of compounds related to precursors, degradation products, and by-products of chemical weapons agents.

Description of the fellowship

2. The training programme is offered by the Organic Chemistry, Detection, and Decontamination Branch of the Spiez Laboratory, and is sponsored by the OPCW as part of its Fellowship Programme, the general rules and conditions for participation of which are described in Note by the Secretariat S/1279/2015* (dated 21 May 2015).
3. The fellowship is designed for chemists with relevant practical and theoretical experience in organic chemistry. Practical experience in organic synthesis and gas chromatography as well as a theoretical understanding of organic chemistry reactions are essential prerequisites. The selected fellow must be prepared to work independently on a designated project. Although the Spiez Laboratory will propose the specific focus of the project, candidates may indicate their own areas of interest.
4. During the practical laboratory component, the fellow will receive training on synthetic methods and purification of organophosphorus compounds related to precursors, degradation products, and by-products of scheduled chemicals (with special emphasis on synthesis), as well as on the identification and confirmation of such compounds, mainly by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance. The programme will also include the preparation of environmental samples, the use of derivatisation techniques, and aspects of quality assurance, as well as demonstrations and training in the use of various types of analytical instruments. Visits to other relevant departments in the institution will be arranged during the fellowship period.



Time and duration

5. The fellowship will be for a duration of three months in 2020. The exact date of commencement will be mutually agreed upon by the selected fellow and the Spiez Laboratory.

Selection of the candidate

6. The selection will be performed jointly by the OPCW and the Spiez Laboratory. Three candidates will be shortlisted and requested to complete all the necessary arrangements with the Spiez Laboratory prior to applying for OPCW sponsorship. These prospective candidates will then be encouraged to submit their official application form (Annex to S/1279/2015*) to the OPCW through their National Authorities. The final selection will be made by the Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat in February 2020. Only one candidate will be selected for the fellowship offered under this programme.

Financial assistance

7. The Spiez Laboratory will provide tutors, equipment, and infrastructure free of charge. The accommodation, daily allowances, and travel costs for the successful candidate will be covered by the OPCW. Personal medical, accident, and liability insurance that is valid in Switzerland must be taken out by the candidate at his/her own cost, or covered by their funding agency. The average cost of living in Switzerland is roughly 3,500 Swiss francs per month.
8. All candidates must indicate in their applications how they propose to fund their travel and living costs in Switzerland. If they plan to apply to the OPCW for sponsorship and/or have other sources of funding, this should be indicated in the application.

Eligibility

9. This programme is open only to citizens of the Member States of the OPCW whose economies are either developing or are in transition. The programme is intended for young chemists with the requisite academic background and laboratory experience as indicated above, and who are preferably still working in a laboratory. Candidates should have good computer skills and be proficient in the use of Microsoft Windows. A good working knowledge of English (or German or French) is a prerequisite.

Application procedure

10. Interested candidates should submit their applications on plain paper and should attach the following:
 - (a) an updated curriculum vitae;
 - (b) an essay (not exceeding 300 words) outlining the objectives the candidate wishes to achieve and the type of work experience he or she hopes to acquire during the fellowship; and

- (c) a letter of recommendation from the supervisor of the candidate at the institution where he or she is currently working, indicating how the training will be of benefit to the candidate's present position, institution, and country.
11. Applications should reach the Spiez Laboratory **by 30 November 2019**. Incomplete applications, those without valid contact information (including a postal and email address), or those received after the deadline will not be considered. Applications should be sent by post, email, or fax to:

Mr Andreas Zaugg
Spiez Laboratory
Austrasse
Organic Chemistry, Detection, and Decontamination Branch
CH-3700 Spiez
Switzerland

Email: andreas.zaugg@babs.admin.ch
Fax: +41 (0)58 468 1402

A copy of the application should also be sent to:

Ms Rufaro Kambarami
International Cooperation Branch
OPCW
Johan de Wittlaan 32
2517 JR, The Hague
The Netherlands

Email: rufaro.kambarami@opcw.org

12. Additional information about this fellowship may be obtained from Mr Andreas Zaugg. General information about the activities of the Spiez Laboratory is available on the laboratory's website (www.labor-spiez.ch).

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