



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.



Electoral Affairs

Electoral Affairs Officers support most Department of Peacekeeping Operations-led operations as well as Special Political Missions. They are typically deployed to serve as the link between the UN mission, local authorities and communities during elections. Electoral Affairs comprises a network of approximately 300 staff operating within the relevant mission mandate worldwide. The Division has an overarching mandate to support national election commissions in the implementation of free and fair elections, together with the UN Country Team, particularly key global partners such as the UN Development Programme and the UN Office of Project Services.



Nature of our Work

An Electoral Affairs Officer has two primary goals in the field. Firstly, to assist Member States in holding credible and legitimate elections in accordance with internationally recognized standards. Secondly, officers contribute to building a sustainable institutional capacity by organizing democratic elections that are genuine, occur periodically and have the full confidence of the contending parties and the electorate. Electoral Affairs Officers work closely with the relevant national election commission to fulfil these objectives.



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.



Education

Electoral Affairs Officers typically have an advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in social sciences, political science, international relations, public administration, anthropology, law, economics or related area. They also have substantive Electoral Experience. English and French are the working languages of the United Nations. All Civil Affairs positions require fluency in oral and written English. Knowledge of a second language particularly Arabic and French is an advantage.



Related Careers

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

- Political Affairs
- Civil Affairs



Helpful Links

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



Metty PURNAMA
Field Operations Coordination Advisor
Erbil, Iraq

Present
Field Operation Coordination Advisor, Baghdad and Erbil, UNAMI

2006
Field Coordinator, Monrovia, UNMIL

2004
Regional Electoral Coordinator in Kunduz, UNAMA

2002
Regional Electoral Coordinator, Bo, UNAMSIL

1994
Long Term Observer, Northern Region (Kimberley), UNOMSA

1993
UNV District Electoral Supervisor, Skun, Kampong Cham

1992
Principal Assistant/Project Administrator, UN-HABITAT/ UNDP projects, Jakarta

1981
Advanced degree in Political Science/ International Relations, University of Indonesia, Jakarta



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; 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.

Missions Directed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations*



UN Field Careers

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.

What are you doing for peace?

Field Personnel Division,
United Nations
Department of Field Support

I love working for the UN in the electoral field – it is such an amazing feeling to watch democracy in action.



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Duty Station:
Erbil, Iraq