



S/2194/2023
21 July 2023
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT ONLINE PROFICIENCY TESTING COURSE

BACKGROUND

1. The OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to inform Member States that a proficiency testing course will be held online via the Microsoft Teams and Talentsoft platforms from 25 September to 6 October 2023.
2. The aim of this online proficiency testing course is to assist qualified analytical chemists from laboratories in the OPCW Member States in acquiring the further knowledge and experience necessary for successful participation in the proficiency testing organised by the OPCW Laboratory.

CONTENT

3. This course will be divided into two main parts:
 - (a) independent study of online training materials consisting of presentations (with audio) and videos (with subtitles); and
 - (b) live, interactive online sessions.
4. Participants will be granted online access to the training materials from 25 September to 3 October 2023 for independent, self-paced study. The materials will consist of the following thematic modules:
 - (a) Module 1: Chemistry of scheduled chemicals;
 - (b) Module 2: The OPCW Central Analytical Database (OCAD); the Automated Mass Spectral Deconvolution and Identification System (AMDIS), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology database (NIST);
 - (c) Module 3: Proficiency testing types: Chemical Weapons Convention Chemical Analysis Competency Testing (CFACT), Proficiency Testing (PT), and Biomedical Proficiency Testing (BioPT);
 - (d) Module 4: CFACT;
 - (e) Module 5: Proficiency testing strategy and general requirements; and
 - (f) Module 6: Proficiency testing reporting.



5. On 3 October 2023, participants will take an online test to verify the knowledge acquired over the course of the previous week. Participants who pass the test will be divided into three groups and invited to attend one of the live interactive sessions, which will take place on 4, 5, and 6 October 2023 on the Microsoft Teams platform.
6. Live online sessions will be dedicated to discussions and question-and-answer sessions. Experts from the OPCW Laboratory will first summarise the content of each module and then participants will have an opportunity to ask questions.
7. This training course will accommodate a maximum of 45 participants from OPCW Member States who will be selected based on their qualifications and experience. Preference will be given to applicants from Member States with economies that are developing or in transition.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

8. The course is open to those who:
 - (a) have a minimum of a first degree (BSc or equivalent) in analytical chemistry, chemistry, or related chemical sciences from a recognised university or institution;
 - (b) preferably, have previously participated in any of the analytical chemistry courses or laboratory support projects organised by the OPCW or work in a laboratory that applied for the Laboratory Twinning and Assistance Programme; and
 - (c) have been working in a chemical laboratory or research institution **for at least one year**.
9. This training course will be conducted in English. Candidates must therefore have a strong command of both written and spoken English.
10. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

11. Applications will be carefully screened based on the criteria specified in paragraphs 8 and 9 above.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

12. Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). Applicants must first create an account and then register for the event. Only in exceptional circumstances involving technical difficulties may a complete set of application documents be submitted via email attachment (icb.events@opcw.org), with the reference "Proficiency Testing Course 2023" in the subject line of the message.
13. Only nominations endorsed by a nominee's National Authority or Permanent Representation will be considered. Each application must be endorsed digitally on the Eventus platform by the nominee's respective National Authority. An up-to-date curriculum vitae must be uploaded during the online registration process. Nominees must indicate their practical and work experience in their curricula vitae.

14. Applications must be submitted to the Secretariat **no later than 5 September 2023**. Additional information may be obtained from the International Cooperation Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Mr Roman Warchol, Senior Programme Officer (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3476; Email: roman.warchol@opcw.org) and Ms Rufaro Kambarami, Project Assistant (Tel: +31 (0)70 416 3272; Email: rufaro.kambarami@opcw.org).

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