



S/2236/2024  
15 January 2024  
ENGLISH only

## NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AN E-LEARNING SAFETY TRAINING PROGRAMME IN ENGLISH 8 APRIL – 7 JUNE 2024

#### PURPOSE OF THE TRAINING

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to inform Member States that it will hold an e-learning safety training programme in English, via the Moodle and Microsoft Teams platforms, from 8 April to 7 June 2024. The training will be co-organised by the OPCW and the Chemical Industries Association of Uruguay, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, and joint financial support from the OPCW and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).
2. The objective of the training programme is to provide an update on the current standards, policies, and best practices in occupational safety and chemical hazards, as well as the handling, storage, and transport of chemicals, and chemical waste management. It has been designed for representatives of chemical companies, research institutions, and specialised agencies from OPCW Member States working in the field of the environment, health, safety, and security related to the use of chemicals. The training programme is being implemented within the scope of the capacity-building programmes related to the peaceful applications of chemistry under Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

#### CONTENT

3. The duration of the course will be eight weeks (equivalent to 80 learning hours, including eight hours of interactive sessions, 80 hours of e-learning multimedia content, and 200 pages of text materials) and will be divided into six main modules, as described below.
  - (a) **Module 1: Safety (weeks 1 and 2):** Self-testing, followed by lessons on safety, health, environment, and security (SHE&S), basic concepts, accident costs, accident causes, statistical study of accidents, accident investigation, hazard identification, risk assessment, and preventive and protective controls.
  - (b) **Module 2: Chemicals (weeks 3 and 4):** Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), physical hazards, health and environmental hazards, handling, storage, and the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods; activities include a discussion forum.

- (c) **Module 3: Environment (week 5):** GHS environmental hazards, waste management, recycling, final disposal methods, clean technologies, and green chemistry; activities include online exercises.
  - (d) **Module 4: Emergencies (week 6):** First aid after exposure to chemicals, fire and explosions intervention, spill control, and emergency preparedness and response; activities include examination of case studies.
  - (e) **Module 5: Security (week 7):** Duties and responsibilities, security risk assessment, identification of vulnerable points, protection of people, protection of physical and intellectual property, protection of a company's reputation, prevention of assets being used to cause harm, control measures, illegal use of chemicals, and the role of the OPCW; activities include participant assignments.
  - (f) **Module 6: Management and culture (week 8):** Integrated management systems (quality, safety, health, environment, and security–QSHE&S), Responsible Care<sup>®</sup>, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and safety culture; activities include a virtual meeting (via Microsoft Teams).
4. The final activities of the course (**weeks 9 and 10**) include a final exam, another round of self-testing, a completion survey on the course, and the presentation of each participant's project.
  5. As indicated above, the course will include a final exam and projects (assignments). Trainees obtaining a passing grade will receive a certificate, and trainees obtaining satisfactory grades on the assignments will become Safety Training Programme (STP) Associate Fellows and will be recognised on the IUPAC's STP website.
  6. The course will accommodate between 5 and 15 participants from OPCW Member States. The Secretariat will select participants and notify the successful candidates, who will then receive an official invitation from the Secretariat.

#### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

7. The training programme is open to those who:
  - (a) have a minimum of a first degree (BSc or equivalent) in chemical science, environmental science, or engineering from a recognised university or institution (or a degree in other fields in combination with at least five years of qualifying experience, as referred to in subparagraph 7(b) below); and
  - (b) have been working in the chemical industry, research and academia, specialised institutions performing activities involving hazardous chemicals, or governmental agencies that coordinate chemical safety and security at such establishments.
8. All training activities will be conducted in English. Candidates must therefore have a strong command of both written and spoken English. Any candidate who is found not to meet this requirement may not be allowed to continue their participation in the event.
9. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

## SELECTION PROCEDURE

10. Applications will be carefully screened based on the criteria specified in paragraphs 7 and 8 above. The Secretariat may decide to interview applicants.
11. All applications must be digitally endorsed by the National Authority<sup>1</sup> of the candidate's country through Eventus, the OPCW's event management system (<https://apps.opcw.org/eventus>). National Authorities are invited to consider gender parity when endorsing participants.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

12. Interested candidates are invited to apply for participation in the training course through Eventus **no later than 26 February 2024**. Applicants must first create an account in the system and then register for the event.
13. Applicants shall also upload the following documents to Eventus:
  - (a) an updated curriculum vitae;
  - (b) a letter of recommendation from the candidate's supervisor in his or her institution addressing the candidate's qualifications in relation to the criteria specified in paragraph 7 above, and attesting to the relevance of the training to the work of the applicant's institution; and
  - (c) a copy of the personal identification pages of the candidate's passport.
14. Incomplete or improperly completed applications cannot be considered.
15. Additional information may be obtained from the International Cooperation Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat. The focal points for this training programme are: Ms Ting Zhang (Email: [ting.zhang@opcw.org](mailto:ting.zhang@opcw.org)), Mr Massimo de Rienzo (Email: [massimo.derienzo@opcw.org](mailto:massimo.derienzo@opcw.org)), and the IUPAC Committee on Chemistry and Industry (COCI) Safety Training Programme (Email: [stp@iupac.org](mailto:stp@iupac.org)). The words "OPCW E-learning Safety Training Programme 2024" should be included in the subject line of any email.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants are advised to approach their country's National Authority or Permanent Representation to the OPCW. Contact details are available on the OPCW website (<https://www.opcw.org/about-us/member-states>).