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19 February 2024
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR A BASIC ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY COURSE FOR WOMEN CHEMISTS, OPCW CENTRE FOR CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY, THE NETHERLANDS, 9 – 11 JULY 2024

Background

1. The OPCW Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) wishes to inform Member States that it will hold a basic analytical chemistry course for women chemists at the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology in Nootdorp, the Netherlands, from 9 to 11 July 2024.
2. The aim of the analytical chemistry course is to assist qualified women analytical chemists from Member States with economies that are developing or in transition in acquiring further knowledge and experience, specifically as it relates to the analysis of chemicals related to the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention), and to facilitate the adoption of good laboratory practices and quality standards.

Content

3. The three-day course will focus on basic training in gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and will include study of and demonstrations related to the use of these and other techniques for the analysis of chemicals related to the Convention.

Admission requirements

4. The analytical chemistry course is open to women who:
 - (a) are citizens of Member States with economies that are developing or in transition;
 - (b) have a minimum of a first degree (BSc or equivalent) in analytical chemistry, chemistry, or related chemical sciences from a recognised university or institution, with relevant practical and theoretical experience in analytical chemistry, specifically with GC and GC-MS; and
 - (c) have been working in a chemical laboratory or research institution in their home country for **at least three years**.
5. All course activities will be conducted in English, and no interpretation services of any kind will be provided. Candidates must therefore have a strong command of both written and spoken English. Any candidate who is found upon arrival not to meet this requirement may not be allowed to continue their participation in the course.



6. The Secretariat will select participants based on their qualifications and experience. Participants are requested to obtain any necessary visas (including transit visas) before travelling to the course.

Sponsorship

7. For sponsored participants, the cost of the course and accommodation will be covered by the Secretariat. In addition, the Secretariat will pay for international travel, meals, visas, and emergency medical and travel insurance, and will provide a limited subsistence allowance to cover sundry expenses in accordance with OPCW rules.
8. The Secretariat will not pay for medical assistance. Therefore, participants should be fit for travel. All participants taking prescribed medication should arrive with supplies sufficient for the duration of the event.
9. When making travel arrangements for sponsored participants, the Secretariat will seek the most economical options. The Secretariat will not cover expenses unrelated to the course, or that result from changes to travel arrangements that it has not authorised.

Application procedure

10. Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications through Eventus, the OPCW event management system (<https://eventus.opcw.org/>). Applicants must first create an account and then register for the event.
11. Each application must be endorsed digitally on the Eventus platform by the nominee's respective National Authority. Only nominations endorsed by the National Authority or Permanent Representation will be considered. Nominees must attach their curriculum vitae with a detailed explanation of their work experience and the analytical techniques they are familiar with. Incomplete or improperly completed applications cannot be considered.
12. Applications must be submitted to the Secretariat **no later than 27 March 2024**. Additional information may be obtained from the International Cooperation Branch of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. The contact persons are Ms Rufaro Kambarami, Project Assistant (Email: rufaro.kambarami@opcw.org) and Mr Massimo de Rienzo, Senior Programme Officer (Email: massimo.derienzo@opcw.org).