



S/2427/2025
23 July 2025
ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**INVITATION TO THE OPCW MEMBER STATES FROM AFRICA TO APPLY FOR
A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP ON BIOTOXIN ANALYSIS****Purpose of the fellowship**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite Member States of the OPCW in the Africa region to submit nominations for a research fellowship on biotoxin analysis. The research fellow will be stationed at the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre).

Description of the fellowship

2. This programme will be organised by the Secretariat at the ChemTech Centre and is designed for chemists with relevant practical and theoretical experience in the field of biotoxins analysis and liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) analysis. The selected research fellow must be prepared to work independently on a designated project.
3. The fellowship will focus on the evaluation of degradation products of scheduled biotoxins, which is relevant for verification purposes. The envisaged project would comprise two closely related subtasks:
 - (a) the development of an experimental design to expose a selected biotoxin (such as ricin) to degradation conditions relevant for environmental samples; and
 - (b) the development of sample preparation methods and liquid chromatography methods to identify potential specific degradation products of the selected biotoxin.
4. The learning objective is to acquire experience in the use of analytical methods (sample preparation and LC-MS/MS) for the analysis of biotoxin degradation products. The fellowship will also include aspects of quality assurance and work safety.

Time and duration

5. The fellowship will be for a duration of six months, starting in the autumn of 2025 or early 2026. The exact date of commencement of the fellowship will be mutually agreed upon by the selected research fellow and the ChemTech Centre.



Selection of candidates

6. One candidate will be selected for the fellowship offered under this programme. The selection will be made before 30 September 2025. Only the successful candidate will be informed by the OPCW.

Financial assistance

7. The OPCW will provide mentors, equipment, and infrastructure free of charge. The accommodation, daily allowances, travel costs, and medical insurance will also be borne by the OPCW.

Eligibility

8. The fellowship position is open to citizens of the Member States of the OPCW in the Africa region (a list of which is available on the OPCW website) that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition. It is intended for relatively young chemists with an academic background and laboratory experience, as indicated above. Candidates should have practical experience with computers and basic software. A good working knowledge of English is a prerequisite. The Secretariat strongly encourages Member States and National Authorities to seek, support, and endorse applications from qualified women candidates.

Application procedure

9. Interested candidates should submit their applications on plain paper and should attach the following:
 - (a) an up-to-date curriculum vitae;
 - (b) an essay (not exceeding 500 words) describing the applicant's scientific background and experience in the topic, outlining the objectives and type of work experience the candidate wishes to achieve during the fellowship, and the research topics they are interested in;
 - (c) a letter of recommendation from the supervisor of the candidate at the institution where they are currently working, indicating how the training will be of benefit to the candidate's present position, institution, and country;
 - (d) a completed OPCW Fellowship Programme application form (attached as the Annex to this Note); and
 - (e) a copy of the information pages of the candidate's valid national passport.
10. Applications without valid contact information (including mailing address and email address) will not be considered.
11. A copy of the completed OPCW Fellowship Programme application form should be sent to the respective National Authority to the OPCW, which is requested to endorse the application and forward it by email to the Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (icb.events@opcw.org).

12. Additional information about this programme may be obtained from Daniel Noort, Head of the OPCW Laboratory (daniel.noort@opcw.org).

Annex: Fellowship Programme Application Form

ANNEX

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME APPLICATION FORM

Applicants should complete sections 1 to 3 of this form, arrange for the endorsements by the home institution in section 4, and then send the form **by email** to the respective **National Authority** with a request to complete section 5.

The respective National Authority should then forward the completed form to the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, **by email** (icb.events@opcw.org), directly or through the relevant Permanent Representation. The endorsed application should be received by the OPCW **no later than 12 September 2025**.

PLEASE TYPE OR USE BLOCK LETTERS

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION								
Family name*								
First name(s)*								
Date of birth	Day	Month	Year					
Nationality								
Address (home)	Street							
	Number				Postcode			
	City							
	Country							
Address (work)	Street							
	Number				Postcode			
	City							
	Country							
Telephone and fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home							
	Work							
	Mobile							
	Fax							
Email address	Home							
	Work							
Passport number								
Date of issue	Day	Month	Year					
Date of expiry	Day	Month	Year					
Place of issue								
Mother tongue								
Knowledge of languages	Read		Write		Speak		Understand	
	Easily	Not easily	Easily	Not easily	Easily	Not easily	Easily	Not easily
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								

* Please give the first and family names exactly as they appear in the nominee's passport.

[illegible]

Have you received financial or other support from the OPCW for any activity during the past 36 months?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If “yes”, please give details
Have you applied for any other support from the OPCW?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If “yes”, please give details
Bank details (candidate)	
Account number	
Bank name, branch, and address	
IBAN	
SWIFT code	
2. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	
Applications will not be accepted without both of the following:	
(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	letter from the candidate’s present home institution confirming that he/she will be granted leave to undertake the fellowship; and
(b) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	photocopies of relevant pages from the candidate’s valid passport and updated curriculum vitae.
3. SIGNATURE OF THE CANDIDATE	
<div style="text-align: right;">Date: _____</div>	
4. SIGNATURE OF THE HEAD OF THE CANDIDATE’S HOME INSTITUTION/ LABORATORY	
<div style="text-align: right;">Date: _____</div>	
5. COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION BY THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY OR PERMANENT REPRESENTATION TO THE OPCW	