



S/2446/2025

29 September 2025

ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR TWO RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN ANALYTICAL
CHEMISTRY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TO BE HELD IN 2026
AT THE LABORATORY OF THE FINNISH INSTITUTE FOR VERIFICATION OF
THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
HELSINKI, FINLAND****PURPOSE OF THE FELLOWSHIPS**

1. The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (the Secretariat) wishes to invite Member States to nominate two participants for research fellowships for analytical and organic chemistry skills development: One will focus on gas chromatography-high resolution mass spectrometry (GC-HRMS), and the second will focus on synthesis and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). The fellowships will take place in 2026 at the laboratory of the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) in Helsinki, Finland.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FELLOWSHIPS

2. The fellowships are organised by VERIFIN and are designed for chemists with relevant practical and theoretical experience in synthesis and analytical chemistry. For the GC-HRMS research fellow, practical experience in analytical chemistry, including sample preparation, and gas chromatography, in addition to a theoretical understanding of mass spectrometry, are essential prerequisites. For the research fellow focusing on synthesis and NMR, practical experience in organic synthesis and NMR, as well as a theoretical understanding of organic reactions and NMR spectroscopy, are essential prerequisites. The selected research fellows must be prepared to work independently on a designated project. Although VERIFIN will propose the specific focus of the project, candidates may indicate their own areas of interest. Applicants who are at the early stage of their research careers are preferred.
3. During the practical laboratory component, the GC-HRMS research fellow will receive training on sample preparation and analysis methods for compounds related to chemical warfare agents, their precursors, degradation products, and the by-products of selected scheduled chemicals, in addition to the application of GCHRMS in this field. The synthesis and NMR research fellow will receive training on synthesis methods and purification of compounds related to precursors, degradation products, and the by-products of scheduled chemicals, as well as structure elucidation using NMR spectroscopy. The fellowships will also address the issues of quality assurance and occupational safety.



TIME AND DURATION

4. The fellowships will each be for a duration of six months, starting in the spring of 2026. The exact date of commencement of the fellowships will be mutually agreed upon by the selected research fellows and VERIFIN.

SELECTION OF THE CANDIDATES

5. Two candidates will be selected for the two fellowships in two phases. The pre-selection of the candidates will be completed before 14 November 2025. The final selection by the OPCW will be made before 15 December 2025. Only successful candidates will be informed by the OPCW.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

6. VERIFIN will provide tutors, equipment, and infrastructure free of charge. The costs of accommodation, daily allowances, travel, and medical insurance will be borne by the OPCW.
7. It should be mentioned that VERIFIN will pre-select at least four candidates for the fellowships; their applications will be forwarded to the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW. The Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division will select the research fellows to be supported by the OPCW based on the recommendation of the Review Committee. Applications are to comply with the requirements of the OPCW Fellowship Programme, the details of which are available on the OPCW website (www.opcw.org).

ELIGIBILITY

8. The fellowship positions are open to citizens of Member States of the OPCW (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 earlier. The candidates should have practical experience with computers and basic software. A good working knowledge of English is a prerequisite. Qualified women candidates are encouraged to apply.

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 relevant topics, outlining the objectives and the type of work experience the candidate wishes to achieve during the fellowship, and relevant 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 candidate's valid national passport.
10. Applications without valid contact information (including a mailing address and email address) will not be considered. Applications should be received by VERIFIN by 30 October 2025. Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be considered. The applicant should also clearly indicate which fellowship programme they prefer (GC-HRMS or synthesis and NMR). Applications should be sent to the following address:
- Applications for the GC-HRMS fellowship:
Arja Valtanen
VERIFIN
Department of Chemistry
P.O. Box 55
FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland
Email: arja.valtanen@helsinki.fi
Tel: +358 50 473 5795
- Applications for the synthesis and NMR fellowship:
Harri Kiljunen/ Johannes Heikkinen
VERIFIN
Department of Chemistry
P.O. Box 55
FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland
Email: harri.kiljunen@helsinki.fi / johannes.heikkinen@helsinki.fi
Tel: +358 50 448 6566/ +358 50 323 3716
11. A copy of the completed OPCW Fellowship Programme application form (annexed to this Note) should be sent to the respective National Authority to the OPCW, which is requested to endorse the application and forward it to the Director, International Cooperation and Assistance Division, International Cooperation Branch, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. Nominations may also be submitted by email (icb.events@opcw.org). Additionally, the endorsed application form should also be submitted directly to VERIFIN.
12. Additional information about these fellowships may be obtained from Arja Valtanen (arja.valtanen@helsinki.fi), and Harri Kiljunen (harri.kiljunen@helsinki.fi) and Johannes Heikkinen (johannes.heikkinen@helsinki.fi).

Annex: OPCW Fellowship Programme Application Form

Annex**OPCW FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME APPLICATION FORM**

The applicant 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 VERIFIN** and a copy to the respective **National Authority** with a request to complete section 5.

The National Authority should then forward the completed form to the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, **by email to icb.events@opcw.org** (directly or through the relevant Permanent Representation). The endorsed application should be received by the OPCW and VERIFIN **no later than 30 October 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	