



OPCW

Technical Secretariat

International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/1029/2012

29 June 2012

ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR AN INTERNSHIP IN ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AT THE VERIFIN LABORATORY IN 2012
HELSINKI, FINLAND**

1. Purpose of the internship

The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) wishes to invite Member States to nominate participants for an internship to develop analytical chemistry skills at the Laboratory of the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) in Finland in 2012. The internship will involve the analysis of compounds related to chemical weapons agents and their precursors, degradation products, and by-products.

2. Description of the internship

- 2.1 The programme is organised by VERIFIN and is designed for chemists with relevant practical and theoretical experience in analytical chemistry. Practical experience in analytical chemistry, including sample preparation and liquid chromatography (LC), as well as a theoretical understanding of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, is an essential prerequisite. The selected intern 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.
- 2.2 During the practical laboratory component, the intern will receive training on methods used in sample preparation and for the analysis of compounds related to chemical weapons agents, their precursors, degradation products, and by-products, as well as on the identification and confirmation of such compounds, mainly by NMR spectroscopy. The programme will also include training in quality assurance.

3. Time and duration

The duration of the internship will be three months in 2012 (preferably 1 September through 30 November 2012). The exact date of commencement of the internship will be mutually agreed upon by the selected intern and VERIFIN.



4. Selection of the candidate

VERIFIN will recommend the selection of three candidates. Only one candidate will be selected for the internship offered under this programme. In accordance with paragraph 10 of S/289/2002/Rev.1 (dated 17 April 2012), the “final selection of the interns ... will be made by the Director-General, upon the recommendation of a review committee”, and will be made in August 2012.

5. Financial assistance

- 5.1 VERIFIN will provide tutors, equipment, and infrastructure at no cost to the intern or to the OPCW. Accommodation, daily allowances, and travel costs will be financed by a third party. Personal insurance (medical, accident, and liability) covering Finland must be taken out by the candidate at their own expense or be covered by a funding agency. The average cost of living in Finland is about EUR 2,000 per month.
- 5.2 In this context, once a candidate has been selected by the OPCW, he or she may apply to the OPCW for sponsorship under the OPCW Internship-Support Programme, implemented by the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW. Details are available on the OPCW website (www.opcw.org). However, prospective interns are expected to complete all the necessary arrangements with VERIFIN prior to applying for OPCW sponsorship. A copy of the acceptance letter from VERIFIN must be enclosed with the application for sponsorship.
- 5.3 All candidates must indicate in their applications how they propose to fund their travel and living costs in Finland. If they plan to apply to the OPCW for sponsorship if they are selected, they should indicate that in their application form.

6. Eligibility

This programme is open to citizens of Member States of the OPCW, the economies of which are either developing or are in transition (subparagraph 8(a) of S/289/2002/Rev.2).¹ The programme is intended for relatively young chemists with an academic background and relevant laboratory experience. The candidate should have practical experience with computers and basic software. A good working knowledge of English, both written and oral, is a prerequisite.

7. Application procedure

- 7.1 Interested candidates should submit their applications on plain paper and should attach the following:
- (a) an updated curriculum vitae;
 - (b) an essay (not exceeding 300 words) outlining the objectives the candidate wishes to achieve and the type of work experience he or she hopes to acquire during the period of the internship; and

¹ A list of Member States of the OPCW is available on the external website.

- (c) a letter of recommendation from the supervisor of the candidate at the institution where he or she is currently working, indicating how the training will be of benefit to the candidate's present position, institution, and country.

7.2 Applications without valid contact information (including mailing address, fax number, and e-mail address) will not be considered. Applications should be sent by mail or fax directly to VERIFIN **by 31 July 2012**. Incomplete applications or those received after the deadline will not be considered. Applications should be sent to the following address:

Harri Koskela
VERIFIN
Department of Chemistry
P.O. Box 55
FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland

E-mail: harri.t.koskela@helsinki.fi

Fax: +358 9 191 50437

7.3 Additional information about this programme may be obtained from Harri Koskela. General information about the activities of VERIFIN is available on the laboratory's website (www.verifin.helsinki.fi).

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