



International Cooperation and Assistance Division

S/1269/2015

28 April 2015

ENGLISH only

NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR TWO COURSES ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF LABORATORY SKILLS FOR THE ANALYSIS OF CHEMICALS RELATED TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AT THE FINNISH INSTITUTE FOR VERIFICATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Purpose of the courses

1. The OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) wishes to inform Member States that in 2015 it will hold two courses on the enhancement of laboratory skills for the analysis of chemicals related to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) at the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN) in Helsinki, Finland. The aims of the courses are to assist qualified analytical chemists from Member States whose economies are developing or in transition, in acquiring further experience and practical knowledge; to facilitate the analysis of chemicals related to national implementation of the Convention; to enhance national capacities in these Member States by offering training in analytical chemistry to personnel from industry, academic institutions, and government laboratories; to facilitate the adoption of good laboratory practices; and to broaden the pool of human resources from which National Authorities and the Secretariat can draw in the future.

List of courses

2. The courses to be held are as follows:
 - (a) Enhancement of laboratory skills
 - (i) a course on the enhancement of laboratory skills on chemical weapons-related laboratory quality management (CW-LQM), from 7 to 18 September 2015; and
 - (ii) a course on the enhancement of laboratory skills on chemical weapons-related quantitative mass spectrometry (CW-QMS), from 7 to 18 September 2015.



Course on the enhancement of laboratory skills on chemical weapons-related laboratory quality management (CW-LQM)

3. The course on the enhancement of laboratory skills on chemical weapons-related laboratory quality management will take place from 7 to 18 September 2015. During the course, the quality standard for testing laboratories (general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, ISO/IEC 17025:2005) is studied in detail. The standard is examined through lectures and practical work. Prior to the course, the participants are asked to provide their current laboratory quality manual, if they already have one. The aim is that during the course the participants continue working with their own quality manual or start to prepare it. This course is intended to be a customised two-week course and the teaching will be individualised for each participant's institute. The course may be followed by expert-assistance visits to the participating laboratories for an audit of their laboratory quality system.
4. This course will accommodate a maximum of four participants from Member States whose economies are developing or are in transition. The Secretariat will select the participants in consultation with VERIFIN.

Course on the enhancement of laboratory skills on chemical weapons-related quantitative mass spectrometry (CW-QMS)

5. The course on the enhancement of laboratory skills on chemical weapons-related QMS will take place from 7 to 18 September 2015. The goal of this course is to improve practical skills in the quantitative analysis of chemicals related to the Convention through such techniques as liquid chromatography (LC)-MS/MS and gas chromatography (GC)-MS/MS. For this reason, participants should have previous hands-on experience using LC, GC, and MS. Participants will be introduced to sample preparation, use of internal standards, method development, optimisation, method validation, and data processing and reporting. They will then be given demonstrations of LC-MS/MS and GC-MS/MS techniques, followed by hands-on exercises including environmental and biomedical samples.
6. The course will consist of the following elements:
 - (a) sample preparation and use of internal standards;
 - (b) method development, optimisation, and validation;
 - (c) quantitative/qualitative data processing and reporting;
 - (d) hands-on exercises; and
 - (e) quality assurance.
7. The course will accommodate a maximum of eight participants from Member States whose economies are developing or are in transition. The Secretariat will select the participants in consultation with VERIFIN.

Sponsorship

8. The cost of the courses themselves, as well as accommodation for all participants, will be covered by the Secretariat. In addition, the Secretariat will pay for international travel, meals, and medical and travel insurance for all participants.

Admission requirements

9. The courses are open to those who:
 - (a) have a minimum of a first degree (BSc or equivalent) in chemistry or analytical chemistry from a recognised university or institution, with relevant practical and theoretical experience in analytical chemistry, including:
 - (i) laboratory quality assurance systems for the CW-LQM on laboratory quality management; and
 - (ii) quantitative mass spectrometry for the CW-QMS;
 - (b) are citizens of Member States that are developing or in transition; and
 - (c) have been working in a chemical laboratory or research institution in their home country for at least five years.
10. The courses will be conducted in English. 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 in the course.
11. Participants will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement with the OPCW.

Selection procedure

12. Applications will be carefully screened on the basis of the criteria specified in paragraph 9 above. Only the most suitable applicants will be interviewed. Eligible candidates from laboratories that have sought, or are receiving, support under the Project on Laboratory Assistance, which is funded separately by the European Union, are especially encouraged to apply.

Application procedure

13. Interested candidates are invited to apply for one of the courses listed above by filling out, in English only, the form that is annexed to this Note, indicating their preference for the courses. It should then be submitted to the Secretariat, via their National Authority or the Permanent Representation of their country to the OPCW. The Secretariat should receive the information no later than the deadline indicated for each course. It should be sent to the Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands. An advance copy of the application may be emailed to icb@opcw.org. In this case, the subject line of the email should contain the words "Analytical-skills-development course 2015".

14. The application form must be accompanied by the following:
 - (a) a curriculum vitae;
 - (b) a one-page description of the candidate's practical experience; and
 - (c) a letter of recommendation from the supervisor of the candidate in his or her institution that addresses the candidate's qualifications in the light of paragraph 9 above, and attests to the relevance of the course to the work of the institution;
 - (d) An endorsement from the National Authority for the Convention of the candidate's home country.
15. Incomplete or improperly filled-out applications cannot be considered.
16. Additional information about this programme may be obtained from Mr Patrick Häggman, in the International Cooperation Branch. Mr Häggman's contact details are as follows:

Tel.: +31 (0)70 416 3274
Email: patrick.haggman@opcw.org

Annex: Application Form

Annex

**COURSE ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF LABORATORY SKILLS
FOR THE ANALYSIS OF CHEMICALS RELATED TO
THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
VERIFIN, FINLAND
7 – 18 SEPTEMBER 2015**

APPLICATION FORM

1. Before completing this form, applicants should read the guidelines presented in the cover Note to confirm their eligibility.
2. Please indicate in the table below which course you are interested in. Pay careful attention to the deadline for submission of applications for the course you are applying for. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
3. Applicants should complete sections 1 to 4, attach the documents listed in section 5, and sign the form at section 6. The form should then be sent to either their National Authority or the Permanent Representation of their country to the OPCW in The Hague, with a request to complete section 7.
4. The National Authority or the Permanent Representation should complete section 7 and forward the form to the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, OPCW, Johan de Wittlaan 32, 2517 JR The Hague, the Netherlands.

Please type or use BLOCK LETTERS

Course Title	Date	Deadline for Application	Applying for
Course on the Enhancement of Laboratory Skills on Laboratory Quality management (CW-LQM)	7 to 18 September 2015	9 May 2014	
Course on the Enhancement of Laboratory Skills on Quantitative Mass Spectrometry (CW-QMS)	7 to 18 September 2015	25 July 2014	

SECTION 1. PERSONAL AND CONTACT DETAILS			
Family name of nominee*			
First name(s)*			
Work address			
Home address			
Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
Citizenship			
Gender**	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	
Passport number			
Date of issue	Day	Month	Year
Expiry date	Day	Month	Year
Place of issue			
Email address			
Telephone numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
	Work		
	Mobile		
Fax numbers, including country and city codes	Home		
	Work		
SECTION 2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING			
Please list each degree or other qualification you have obtained, starting with the most recent.			
1	Name and location of institution		
	Main field(s) of study		
	Dates attended	From	To
	Degree or qualification obtained		
2	Name and location of institution		
	Main field(s) of study		
	Dates attended	From	To
	Degree or qualification obtained		

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

** For this and all like items, please tick the appropriate box.

3	Name and location of institution		
	Main field(s) of study		
	Dates attended	From	To
	Degree or qualification obtained		
4	Name and location of institution		
	Main field(s) of study		
	Dates attended	From	To
	Degree or qualification obtained		
5	Name and location of institution		
	Main field(s) of study		
	Dates attended	From	To
	Degree or qualification obtained		

SECTION 3. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

What is your profession?

Please give a brief description of your current work.

Please list below all posts you have held, starting with the most recent.

1	Employer		
	Title		
	Dates	From	To
2	Employer		
	Title		
	Dates	From	To
3	Employer		
	Title		
	Dates	From	To
4	Employer		
	Title		
	Dates	From	To
5	Employer		
	Title		
	Dates	From	To

6	Employer		
	Title		
	Dates	From	To
Have you received financial or other support from the OPCW within the past three years?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please give details.		
Have you applied for any other support from the OPCW?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	If yes, please give details.		
Please list the major analytical equipment in your laboratory and clearly state whether your institution/laboratory has GC and/or GC-MS equipment (CW-QMS course) and a quality assurance system (CW-LQM course).			
SECTION 4. SUPPORTING STATEMENT			
Please state briefly why you are applying for the course, and indicate both what you expect to gain from it and how it would benefit your work, your institution, and your country.			
SECTION 5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION			
Please attach the following documents to your application:			
<p>a letter of recommendation from your supervisor, which confirms your qualifications in light of paragraph 15 of the Note to which this form is annexed, and that attests to the relevance of this course to the work of the institution at which you are working;</p> <p>an updated curriculum vitae;</p> <p>a one-page description of your practical experience; and</p> <p>a photocopy of the personal identification pages of your passport.</p> <p>Applications without full supporting documentation cannot be accepted.</p>			

