

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****INVITATION TO APPLY FOR A FELLOWSHIP
IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
TO BE HELD AT THE SPIEZ LABORATORY, SWITZERLAND IN 2017****Purpose of the fellowship**

1. 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 a fellowship in organic chemistry skills development at the Spiez Laboratory in Switzerland in 2017. The fellowship will involve the synthesis of compounds related to precursors, degradation products, and by-products of chemical weapons agents.

Description of the fellowship

2. The training programme is offered by the Organic Chemistry, Detection and Decontamination Group of the Spiez Laboratory, and is sponsored by the OPCW as part of its Fellowship Programme, of which the general rules and conditions for participation are described in the Note by the Secretariat S/1279/2015* (dated 21 May 2015).
3. The fellowship is designed for chemists with relevant practical and theoretical experience in organic chemistry. Practical experience in organic synthesis and gas chromatography, as well as a theoretical understanding of organic-chemistry reactions, are essential prerequisites. The selected fellow must be prepared to work independently on a designated project. Although the Spiez Laboratory will propose the specific focus of the project, candidates may indicate their own areas of interest.
4. During the practical laboratory component, the fellow will receive training on synthetic methods and purification of organophosphorus compounds related to precursors, degradation products, and by-products of scheduled chemicals (with special emphasis on synthesis), as well as on the identification and confirmation of such compounds, mainly by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance. The programme will also include the preparation of environmental samples, derivatisation techniques, and aspects of quality assurance, as well as demonstrations and training in the use of various types of analytical instruments. Visits to other relevant departments in the institution will be arranged during the fellowship period.



Time and duration

5. The fellowship will be for a duration of three months in 2017. The exact date of commencement will be mutually agreed upon by the selected fellow and the Spiez Laboratory.

Selection of the candidate

6. The selection will be performed jointly by the OPCW and the Spiez Laboratory. Three candidates will be shortlisted and requested to complete all the necessary arrangements with the Spiez Laboratory prior to applying for OPCW sponsorship. These prospective candidates will then be encouraged to submit their official application form (Annex to S/1279/2015*) to the OPCW through their National Authorities. The final selection will be made by the Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Secretariat in February 2017. Only one candidate will be selected for the fellowship offered under this programme.

Financial assistance

7. The Spiez Laboratory will provide tutors, equipment, and infrastructure free of charge. The accommodation, daily allowances, and travel costs for the successful candidate will be covered by the OPCW. Personal insurance (medical, accident, and liability) valid in Switzerland must be taken out by the candidate at his/her own cost or covered by the funding agency. The average cost of living in Switzerland is about CHF 3,500 per month.
8. All candidates must indicate in their applications how they propose to fund their travel and living costs in Switzerland. If they plan to apply to the OPCW for sponsorship and/or have other sources of funding, this should be indicated in the application.

Eligibility

9. This programme is open only to citizens of the Member States of the OPCW (a list of which is available on the OPCW website) whose economies are either developing or are in transition. The programme is intended for young chemists with the requisite academic background and laboratory experience (preferably still working in a laboratory) as indicated above. The candidate should have good computer skills and be proficient in the use of Microsoft Windows. A good working knowledge of English (or German or French) is a prerequisite.

Application procedure

10. 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 fellowship; and

- (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.
11. Applications should reach the Spiez Laboratory **by 31 December 2016**. Incomplete applications, those without valid contact information (including postal address, fax number, and email address), or those received after the deadline will not be considered. Applications should be sent by post, email, or fax to the following address:

Andreas Zaugg
Spiez Laboratory
Austrasse
Organic Chemistry, Detection and Decontamination Group
3700 Spiez
Switzerland

Email: andreas.zaugg@babs.admin.ch
Fax: +41 (0)58 468 1402

A copy of the application should also be sent to:

Sergey Zinoviev
International Cooperation Branch
OPCW
Johan de Wittlaan 32
2517 JR The Hague
The Netherlands

Email: sergey.zinoviev@opcw.org

12. Additional information about this programme may be obtained from Andreas Zaugg. General information about the activities of the Spiez Laboratory is available on the laboratory's website (www.labor-spiez.ch).

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