



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Youth opportunities with FAO

**Become part of a
team that makes a
difference to
the world**



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“The high point of my work with FAO has been engaging and working with local communities, and seeing the impact of FAO’s work on the ground has been an energizing experience. Contributing to FAO’s emergency and resilience programming allowed me to learn from colleagues and communities across East Africa, and made me even more committed to the humanitarian-development sector.”

Ms Adrianna Korte-Nahabedian,
Junior Professional Officer with the
FAO Resilience Team for
Eastern Africa

Are you **passionate about sustainable development**? Are you ready to contribute to FAO’s work to **eradicate poverty and hunger**?

Do you have a **strong desire to improve people’s lives** and the world where we all co-exist, and want to **support FAO’s efforts to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals**?

Will you help FAO **contribute to its strategic framework** and the **2030 Agenda** by **supporting more efficient, inclusive and resilient agrifood systems** that leave no one behind?

If yes, FAO offers a wide range of opportunities to young people looking to work in sustainable development, international cooperation or related activities.

**JOIN
US!**

This brochure introduces five opportunities for young women and men – **as an intern, volunteer or fellow, a young professional officer, or junior professional officer**. Many participants are from developing countries, including marginalized communities, Indigenous Peoples communities or refugee communities.

BECOME AN INTERN

The FAO Internship Programme provides a learning opportunity for talented young people who are strongly motivated to share their perspectives, innovative ideas and latest academic experience in FAO's domain.

- » For students in undergraduate or graduate degree programmes, or recent graduates from an accredited academic institution.
- » Interns must be between 21 and 30 years old.
- » Knowledge of at least one official FAO language (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish).
- » Internships are 3–11 months long, for people looking for analytical and research entry-level work.
- » A monthly stipend is provided.



"During my internship, I have been in numerous situations where cross-cultural communication is pivotal to collaboration, and to foster strong relationships with partners by understanding their societal and cultural needs. This valuable experience has nurtured my growth as a professional and will play a fundamental role in my future international career."

*Ms Hana Azuma, Intern,
Rome, Italy*



BECOME A VOLUNTEER

The FAO Regular Volunteer Programme offers opportunities to support FAO's Four Betters and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Programme proactively and strategically mobilizes broad-based voluntary service.

- » The programme is open to anyone of at least 18 years of age with a secondary school education, who wishes to contribute to FAO's goals.
- » Knowledge of at least one official FAO language (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish).
- » Volunteering assignments last up to six months.

BECOME A FELLOW

The FAO Fellows Programme is designed for researchers with advanced technical knowledge and relevant experience. By contributing expertise, Fellows will add to FAO's global pool of knowledge while being exposed to FAO's world-class methodologies and strategies in defeating hunger.

- » PhD students, researchers and professors with relevant technical/research expertise and knowledge.
- » Candidates must possess a Master's or PhD degree.
- » Knowledge of at least one official FAO language (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish).
- » At least two years of work or research experience in a relevant field.

FAO Global Internship, Volunteer and Fellows Programme: While not restricted to youth, these programmes attract mostly young talent, with an average of approximately 400 participants from around the world taking part every year, two thirds of them women.

BECOME A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OFFICER (YPO)

The Young Professionals Programme is targeted at talented, qualified young professionals, mainly nationals of non- and underrepresented members, with priority given to those from Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and developing countries in general.

- » Candidates must have a Master's or PhD degree and at least one year of relevant experience.
- » Candidates should be 32 years of age or younger as of 31 December in the year of application.
- » YPOs work under the supervision of an FAO staff member and with international and national staff to identify, design, implement, monitor and evaluate FAO activities.
- » Assignments vary and may have a country-specific, regional, sector-based or thematic focus.
- » This is a two-year programme, subject to a one-year probationary period. YPOs are employed at P-1, step 1 level, moving to step 2 level for the second year of their assignment.
- » Working knowledge of English is required (application and selection will be in English), as well as basic knowledge of another official FAO language (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish).



"I was a part of a multi-organizational team conducting detailed damage assessment after flooding in Guyana. I used the data and experience to develop a technical cooperation programme to assist farmers with their recovery. This allowed me to expand my network, collaborate with stakeholders at all levels, and develop my professional skills."

Ms Raisa Spencer, Junior Professional Officer, Quebenang, Guyana

BECOME A JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICER (JPO)

JPOs are young professionals sponsored by their own government through resource partners. Some donors sponsor candidates from developing countries.

- » Candidates should have an advanced degree (Master's or PhD or equivalent) and three years' relevant experience.
- » Each JPO is assigned a senior FAO staff member who provides guidance and informal feedback.
- » Appointments are for one year at the outset, with a possible one-year extension.
- » JPOs become FAO staff members, appointed to duty stations outside their country of origin, receiving an entry-level FAO P-2 salary.



"At the FAO Regional Office for Africa in Accra, I worked with people from different backgrounds, cultures and nationalities, communicating in different languages and establishing a network of colleagues from different continents. I now feel able to work anywhere in the world."

Mr Nuno Will (right), Young Professional Officer, Ghana

HOW TO APPLY

- » Calls for Expression of Interest and Vacancy Announcements are published on the FAO Employment Website.
- » When applying, applicants should attach a motivation letter, CV, language proficiency certificates, evidence of enrolment or academic qualifications, and other information as required.
- » These opportunities are not available to those with close family members already employed by FAO.



“The high point of my work with FAO was working in multi-cultural and multi-language environments. This gave me important experience in adapting to international development, new knowledge, and new opportunities.”

*Ms Xiao Liang
(second from the left, front row),
Junior Professional Officer,
Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo*

Working at FAO

Work environment. FAO offers a dynamic and multicultural work environment; staff from over 100 countries specializing in diverse fields provide a truly international workplace.

Professional growth. FAO offers countless staff development opportunities, including group training, workshops and individual training courses, and encourages career growth within the organization.

Mobility. Since FAO’s work is global our staff should be too; that is why FAO encourages staff to move around both geographically and to different functions within their duty station.

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www.fao.org

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