



## Junior Professional Officer Programme (JPO) 2021/2022

The Italian **Junior Professional Officer Programme (JPO)** is a multilateral technical cooperation initiative sponsored by the Government of Italy through the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and implemented by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA). It enables Italian citizens and citizens of eligible developing countries holding an advanced university degree to gain work experience with international organizations for a period of two years.

The purpose of the Programme is two-fold: on the one hand, it assists international organizations in carrying out their activities by providing them with skilled personnel for a period of two years; on the other, it allows qualified young professionals seeking an international career the opportunity of two years' work experience that will broaden their chances of finding a suitable job in international organizations or in the international field.

Candidates must meet all the following requirements to be considered eligible for the **2021/2022 edition**:

- born *on or after* 1 January 1991 (1 January 1990 for graduates in Medicine; 1 January 1988 for graduates in Medicine who have already been awarded a post-graduate medical specialization degree)
- Italian nationality
- fluency in English and Italian
- advanced university degree awarded before the application deadline, such as:
  - *Laurea Magistrale/Specialistica*
  - *Laurea Magistrale a ciclo unico*
  - *Laurea/Laurea Triennale* plus university Master's degree
  - Bachelor's degree plus university Master's degree.

For the **2021/2022 edition**, a limited number of positions will be assigned to candidates from developing countries (*Least Developed Countries* and priority countries for the Italian Development Cooperation). The list of the eligible countries is available from the website [www.undesa.it](http://www.undesa.it).

Candidates from developing countries must meet all the following requirements to be considered eligible:

- born *on or after* 1 January 1991 (1 January 1990 for graduates in Medicine; 1 January 1988 for graduates in Medicine who have already been awarded a post-graduate medical specialization degree)
- fluency in English (knowledge of Italian will be considered an asset)
- advanced university degree awarded before the application deadline, such as:
  - *Laurea Magistrale/Specialistica*
  - *Laurea Magistrale a ciclo unico*

- *Laurea/LaureaTriennale* plus university Master's degree
- Bachelor's degree plus university Master's degree.

Given the highly competitive nature of the Italian JPO Programme, as well as the increasingly demanding skillsets and levels of experience sought by International Organizations, the following are frequently considered important assets:

- ✓ *Knowledge of other UN official languages/languages spoken in developing countries*
- ✓ *Additional academic qualifications and/or training courses*
- ✓ *Solid professional work experience (minimum one year)*
- ✓ *Key competencies such as client orientation, teamwork, communication, accountability, planning and organization.*

Candidates are expected to be motivated, flexible and willing to adapt to different environments. At all times they must demonstrate commitment to the core values of the United Nations, i.e. *integrity, professionalism and respect for diversity.*

For practical advice on preparing an application to the Italian JPO Programme, candidates are invited to attend a Webinar on one of the following dates (N.B. prior online enrolment is mandatory via [www.undesa.it](http://www.undesa.it)):

- 07 December 2021 (10:30 am)
- 13 December 2021 (5 pm)
- 17 December 2021 (10:30 am)
- 22 December 2021 (5 pm)

The deadline for submitting applications to the 2021/2022 round of the Italian JPO Programme is **30 December 2021 at 3 p.m.** (Italian local time).

Before starting the application process, please read carefully the [How to Apply](#) webpage.

Applications to the Programme can only be submitted online through the **Online Web Application** tool (OWA) of the UN/DESA Office in Rome. It is no longer possible to submit applications via alternative channels.

Only short-listed applicants will be informed by UN/DESA about the positive outcome of the pre-selection process.

For additional information, please consult the relevant webpages on [www.undesa.it](http://www.undesa.it) or email the UN/DESA Office in Rome at [JPOinfo@undesa.it](mailto:JPOinfo@undesa.it).