

# UN Youth Volunteers Programme - Intake 2020

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Application Process

#### **Are the SDC and HSD both involved in the same programme?**

Yes, both agencies finance and support some of the UN Youth Volunteers positions within their core areas of competency and interest.

#### **Do I have to apply for a specific position with the UN Youth Volunteers Programme?**

You must apply for a specific position, and your application documents must be targeted at this position only. Your second choice serves to help cinfo recruiters consider you for another position if they consider it necessary. In such a case, you will be contacted personally and informed about the procedure to follow.

#### **Is there any flexibility with regard to the starting date?**

All selected candidates are expected to be ready for fielding in February/March 2020.

#### **Is there any training offered before the assignment?**

Yes, volunteers must be available in February to attend various pre-departure training sessions and briefings in Bonn, Biel and Bern.

The selected candidates are expected to attend a four-day assignment preparation training (APT) in Bonn, Germany mid February 2020 and start their UN Youth Volunteer assignment at the end of Feb/March. Please note that the travel for attending the training will only be covered from Switzerland to Bonn and return.

#### **Can applications be submitted in French or German?**

Applications will be accepted in English only.

#### **How can I submit my application?**

Applications must be submitted via cinfo's recruitment tool, according to the procedure described on our website.

### 2. Requirements regarding educational background

#### **Can I still apply for the UN Youth Volunteers Programme if I don't have a Master's degree?**

The minimum requirement for the programme is a Master's degree.

#### **Can I apply for the programme if I have a «licence/Lizentiat»?**

Yes, you can.

**Can I apply if I am about to complete my Master's?**

Yes, you can apply if you complete your Master's by October 2018 at the latest.

**Can I apply if I finished my studies over a year ago and then started a post-graduate or PhD or additional Master's programme that I have now completed?**

Yes.

**Is my field of study of relevance to the programme?**

It depends upon the Description of Assignment (DOA) of each position.

### **3. Requirements regarding age and nationality**

**Is there an age limit?**

Yes, candidates must be no older than 28 (are born on or after April 1, 1991)

**Must I be a Swiss citizen at the time of application or can I apply while waiting for citizenship?**

You need to be a Swiss national when you apply for one of the positions financed by SDC and HSD.

**Can I apply if I am not a Swiss citizen but have the Swiss C residence permit?**

Only Swiss nationals can apply for the positions financed by SDC and HSD.

**Can I apply if I have dual citizenship (Swiss and that of another country)?**

Yes. However candidates cannot be deployed in countries of which they are citizens.

**Can I still apply if I am a Swiss citizen residing outside Switzerland?**

Yes. Skype interviews are possible on an exceptional basis.

### **4. Professional experience**

**Do I need work experience in order to apply for the UN Youth Programme?**

As this is a programme designed for recent graduates, with little professional experience, it is expected that prospective candidates have completed relevant short-term placements and/or internships and/or research in a relevant field during their studies.

The requirement is up to two years of working experience and maximum one year professional experience abroad.

**Should I mention my travel experience?**

Yes. You can highlight travel experience in your CV. This will however not be considered as relevant professional experience.

**Should I mention my experience in different volunteer groups/activities in Switzerland (i.e.: international cooperation, politics, social issues, sports, etc.)?**

Yes. It is important to demonstrate your volunteer spirit with concrete examples in your CV.

## 5. Conditions of Service

### Is there a salary for participants?

Yes. You will receive a living allowance which enables you to sustain a modest and secure standard of living at the duty station. The allowances are however, in no way to be understood as a compensation, reward or salary in exchange for the volunteer work. UN Youth Volunteers are also entitled to reimbursement for travel to assignment as well as to Bonn, Germany for the briefing session.

### Is it possible to travel with my partner?

That depends on the assignment, and each DOA specifies whether the vacancy is located in a family or non-family duty station. In the case of family duty stations, however, the UN will not cover travel costs (including visa expenses), health insurance or living expenses for the partner or dependents.

### What about health insurance, holiday and other such entitlements?

Please check the specific Conditions of Service available on the UNV website at <https://www.unv.org/become-volunteer/volunteer-abroad/conditions-of-service>.

## 6. Duty Station

### Might I be sent to a conflict area?

All assignments are in priority countries as determined by the SDC and the HSD. The assignments may take place in post-conflict areas; however, it's unlikely that you will be posted in a country where there is an active conflict/war.

## 7. After the assignment

### Will SDC or HSD be able to extend/finance an extension of my contract after the first year?

No. However, there are cases where the overseas host organisation has found additional means to extend the assignment under a different contract.

### Can I apply for another position within the UN system right after a UNV assignment?

Yes. However, finding a suitable positions may be difficult, as there are few of these within the UN system that are open to professionals with less than 3 years of relevant work experience.

### Can I expect to be offered a position with SDC or the HSD after a UNV assignment?

No.

### Can I apply for a JPO Programme after a UN Volunteer assignment?

Yes. This field experience will even increase your chances to be selected provided you have the required years of work experience.

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