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What kind of consultancies have you been involved in and why?

At the beginning of my career, I accepted a consultancy with UNFPA. I assume, I was hired thanks to my experience in human resources and promotion of health, specifically in dealing with HIV as well as my knowledge of French and English.

What do you like and dislike about consultancies?

It is less about liking or disliking and more about making people aware of what a consultancy means: you are not an employee and therefore do not receive any social security or insurance benefits, which means you have to manage these yourself.

Your advice for future consultants

Use a consultancy to (1) check if the UN is the right place for you to work (you need stamina to get things done, which sometimes takes longer than you would like), (2) build a reputation in your area of expertise, and (3) develop a network in the areas that interest you.

Are consultancies a good entry into UN/IFIs?

Without the first consultancy with UNFPA I would have probably not had the chance to get a temporary appointment with UNDP. I have seen former interns obtaining consultancies which led to temporary appointments and fixed term positions. Therefore, I would say **yes, it is a good way into the UN.**

«A consultancy with the UN offers you the opportunity to see whether you are a good fit for the UN and the UN a good fit for you. Try it out!»

Christine Bendel
