

2026 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAMME (YPP)

YPP is an entry examination to start a career with the United Nations (UN) Secretariat.

Every year, countries that are **un- or underrepresented** in the UN are invited to take part in the examination process.



Eligibility Criteria



Nationality of a participating Member State



Bachelor's degree or at least a 3-year equivalent degree relevant for the exam area



32 years of age or younger (born on or after 1 Jan. 1994)



Proficiency in English or French



DEPARTMENT OF
**OPERATIONAL
SUPPORT**



United Nations

Careers



Are you a national of a participating country?



A - K

Afghanistan, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Grenada, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kiribati, Kuwait

L - R

Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Nauru, Oman, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Qatar

S - Z

Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Vanuatu

YPP Estimated Timeline (for reference only, varies yearly)



Application Period
October-November



Applications Screened
December-January



Assessment Process
February-May



Interviews & Results
June-August



Special Notice



The United Nations does not charge any fees at any stage of the YPP process.

Please beware of for-profit companies that sell services related to the UN YPP.

Companies offering YPP-related services of any kind are in no way supported or endorsed by the United Nations.



Visit the UN Careers Portal

To learn more about the:

Application Process
Examination Structure
Recruitment Process

Please visit careers.un.org/ypp



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is YPP not open to nationals of all countries?

A: The YPP is mandated to ensure equitable representation of all Member States in the UN Secretariat. Therefore, it is available only to applicants from countries that are un- or under-represented in the UN Secretariat in a particular year.

Q: Do I need to have work experience to apply?

A: No, work experience is not required. Relevant work experience will be taken into consideration as one of the additional screening criteria when more than 90 candidates from the same country apply to the same exam subject.

Q: When should I apply?

A: Apply as soon as the application period opens. The application period will be announced on the UN Careers Portal.

Q: What is the format of the YPP examination?

A: The exam is administered online. Further details on the dates, times, and structure of the exam will be provided for convoked candidates.

Q: What is next if I am successful in the YPP examination?

A: As a successful YPP candidate you will be placed on a reserve list of qualified candidates who can be selected for available positions across the UN over a 3-year period.