

QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE GENEVA

JOB TITLE: Programme Assistant, Food and Sustainability, Quaker United Nations Office

LOCATION: Quaker UN Office, Geneva, Switzerland

ACCOUNTABLE TO: QUNO Representative, Global Economic Issues

REMUNERATION: See Conditions of Service below

DURATION: 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014 (preceded by preparation in the UK from 20-23 and 25-30 August 2013)

This is an opportunity for a person with an interest in international affairs and in international organizations to experience a range of international work, while working primarily as an assistant to QUNO's Representative for Global Economic Issues in her work relating to food & sustainability, especially in the areas of agriculture, intellectual property, trade and investment, and possibly also relating to climate change.

General Summary

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva is a partnership between Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). The QUNO Committee for Geneva, which comprises Friends appointed by both QPSW and FWCC, oversees the work of QUNO and sets the priorities for the programme work.

Quaker Peace & Social Witness works with, and on behalf of, members of the Society of Friends in Britain to translate faith into action. Quakers are committed by faith to make active witness for peace and justice. The Quaker testimonies to equality, justice, peace, simplicity and truth are a challenge to alleviate suffering and seek positive change.

FWCC is set up to act in a consultative capacity to promote better understanding among Friends the world over, particularly by the encouragement of joint conferences and inter-visitation, the collection and circulation of information about Quaker literature and other activities directed towards that end. FWCC has General Consultative Status at the United Nations as an international non-governmental organisation and this is the umbrella for the work of the QUNOs in Geneva and New York, and the other Quaker UN representation.

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

The work of QUNO arises out of a concern for the Quaker peace testimony and for building the institutions of peace. The office in Geneva, which is based at Quaker House, is concerned with

work at the UN and other international institutions on human rights and refugee issues, trade, development, the environment and climate change, and peace and disarmament. The office is run by a small team who share in varying degrees the work of the programme, as well as the administration and catering - including cooking, serving and washing up - at Quaker House.

This appointment provides an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge and experience of Quaker international work, partly through working directly on the programme and partly by supporting all the members of the QUNO staff.

Duties and Responsibilities

QUNO's current priorities in the Global Economic Issues area relate to food & sustainability (with particular reference to intellectual property, trade and investment law and policy), climate change and natural resources.

The post will comprise two sets of responsibilities as follows:

1) Programme work (approximately 50% of time)

Assisting the Representative for Global Economic Issues in her programme work. This might include

- assisting with and supporting QUNO's work relating to agricultural trade and investment
- assisting with and supporting QUNO's work relating to intellectual property in agriculture
- possibly assisting with and supporting QUNO's work relating to natural resources and climate change
- attending UN, NGO and other meetings
- representing QUNO at such meetings, as appropriate
- assisting in setting up and participating in meetings at Quaker House
- writing internal notes and reports
- collecting, reading, analysing, sorting and filing documents;
- helping to prepare submissions to the UN, and other materials
- responding to enquiries by letter, email and telephone.

2) Administrative tasks providing support to QUNO as a whole (approximately 50% of time)

- assisting with the Geneva Summer School
- assisting in the arrangements for lunches and other events which take place at Quaker House, including cooking and clearing up and other tasks around the House
- working with other members of staff on general routine clerical duties including dealing with filing, the post, photocopying, and all aspects of hospitality
- assisting with the maintenance of the QUNO data base and other tasks related to QUNO outreach activities
- assisting with managing and editing a newsletter (the Geneva Reporter), a

web site and social media.

Applicants should be aware that while the work focuses on the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva, much of the day-to-day work is administrative and takes place in the Quaker UN Office.

Everyone in the QUNO office works as part of an extended team, and will, from time to time, be asked to assist in other areas of work.

Qualities and Qualifications

A key feature of the post is the Programme Assistant's ability and willingness to contribute actively to QUNO's administrative, corporate and programme work. The post would suit a Friend or person with an understanding of the Quaker approach to the work, and who has taken a demonstrable interest in one of the specified work areas, e.g. through voluntary or other activities.

- Applicants will hold a degree or equivalent, or be finishing that study at present. They should have a demonstrable interest in international affairs and the work of the United Nations in general, with a particular interest in issues relating to food policy, agriculture, trade, environmental policy or climate change. Further postgraduate study may be an advantage. Proven analytical and writing skills are important.
- English is the working language of the office. Knowledge of French is desirable, as Geneva is a French speaking environment, and knowledge of Spanish or other UN languages is an advantage.
- Computer skills (Word, Outlook, etc.) required.
- Enthusiasm, the ability to get on well with all kinds of people, a willingness to help the rest of the team and a sense of humour are all important!
- Appointment to this post requires the postholder to be legally eligible for employment within Switzerland or member states of the European Union. For an exceptionally suitable candidate with strong Quaker connections not eligible to work in EU/Switzerland, we would be willing to make a case for their employment to the Swiss authorities. However, since there is no guarantee of success, any offer would be made subject to a successful application for a work permit.

Conditions of Service

Salary: Currently 1430 Swiss francs per month. In addition, QUNO pays for a furnished self-catering studio for a single person in a student hostel, a bus pass providing free public transport in Geneva, and covers the social costs, benefits and basic health insurance required under Swiss law. Holidays: 27 days to be taken during the contract period, in addition to Geneva public holidays. Timing of vacations is to be agreed in advance with the Global Economic Issues Representative.

Working hours: QUNO follows Swiss custom of a 40 hour work week. Office hours are normally 9am to 6pm with a one-hour lunch break. Time worked over and above that, if agreed in advance with the Global Economic Issues Representative, is compensated by time off in lieu, to be taken within one month at times agreed in consultation with the Representative.

Travel costs at the start and end of the appointment: the costs of a return ticket from the appointee's home base will be paid for.

Closing date for completed applications: 2 April 2013. Applications must be made on the QUNO application form.

Interviews: 29 April 2013 in London, or virtually for those from outside the UK.

Starting date: 1 September 2013, with a mandatory preparation period of two weeks, 20-23 and 25-30 August in the UK, for which a small allowance will be paid. The successful candidate will be encouraged to participate in the annual QUNO UN Summer School in Geneva (7-18 July) at QUNO's expense.

Please return completed application forms to the following email address:

qunojob@quno.ch. If you wish to apply for both Programme Assistant positions available in 2013-2014, and are suitably qualified, please submit a separate application form for each.

Further information about QUNO is available on the QUNO website www.quno.org. Journal letters of past and current Programme Assistants are available at www.quaker.org.uk/jl.