

الأمم المتحدة
اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا

United Nations
Economic and Social Commission
for Western Asia



Nations Unies
Commission économique et sociale
pour l'Asie occidentale

ESCWA Fellowship Programme for Young Arab Professionals

Call for Applications, 2026 Cohort of Fellows

Application deadline: 30 April 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Beirut time

Organizational Setting and Reporting Relationships

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is the regional arm of the United Nations Secretariat for the Arab region. ESCWA supports its member States¹ through policy analysis, convening, and technical cooperation to advance sustainable development and regional cooperation.

ESCWA contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by providing analytical work, intergovernmental support, and technical cooperation to its member States. Through its work programmes, ESCWA assists countries in addressing economic, social and environmental challenges and promoting sustainable and inclusive development.

As a regional knowledge institution, ESCWA seeks to engage talented young professionals from the Arab region through a fellowship programme aimed at strengthening policy analysis, research capacity and knowledge exchange.

The fellowship programme aims to develop a new generation of professionals with strong analytical and policymaking skills to support the economic and social transformation of ESCWA member States.

¹ Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.



Thematic Areas

ESCWA invites applications from qualified young Arab professionals in areas relevant to its programme of work, including:

- *Macroeconomic policy;*
- *Trade policy and regional economic integration;*
- *Transport economics and infrastructure development;*
- *Economic Modeling;*
- *Economic and environmental statistics;*
- *Social policy and inclusive development;*
- *Public administration and governance;*
- *Natural resources management and climate policy;*
- *Data analysis;*
- *Other areas related to ESCWA's strategic priorities.*

The fellowship provides practical on-the-job experience to young professionals in early or mid-career stages in academia, the public sector, or international development. Fellows will gain exposure to the multicultural environment of the United Nations and contribute to the work programme of ESCWA.

Responsibilities

Within delegated authority, Fellows will be responsible for the following duties:

Fellows will agree on a work programme with the receiving ESCWA division/office. The work programme will be defined jointly with the assigned supervisor and aligned with ESCWA programme priorities.

Assignments may include, but are not limited to:

- Collecting, evaluating and analyzing economic and social development data
- Supporting research and analytical studies
- Contributing to technical reports, policy briefs and briefing notes
- Assisting in the preparation of and participation in expert group meetings, workshops and seminars
- Supporting other ESCWA programme activities and knowledge products

Fellows will also be expected to produce a substantive analytical output during the fellowship period.



Competencies

Professionalism: In-depth knowledge and understanding of socioeconomic and political development issues; conceptual and strategic ability to analyze and evaluate critical matters pertaining to socioeconomic and political issues in the Arab region, including ability to translate development-related data/information into policy relevant analyses; experience in knowledge/information management, information and communications technology; ability to undertake research with limited supervision; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; remains calm in stressful situations. Takes responsibility for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work.

Communication: Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; tailors language, tone, style and format to match audience; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed. Ability to present high-level papers to peers and stakeholders, both at the institutional, regional and international level, both orally and in writing, in a clear, concise style.

Team work: Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; places team agenda before personal agenda; supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position; shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relations with people of different national and cultural backgrounds and respect for diversity.

Qualifications

Education

Advanced university degree (Master's degree or PhD) in economics, development studies, public policy, statistics, public administration, governance, sustainable development or related fields.

Experience

Applicants should demonstrate academic research interest or professional experience in development policy, economic analysis, data analysis, public sector governance or related ESCWA priority areas.



Language

Fluency in *English* is required, Arabic is desirable.

Special Notice

This call is open only to **nationals of ESCWA member States**.

Preference is given to candidates from **least developed countries**, namely *Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen*.

Applicants must submit the following documents as PDF attachments:

- UN Administrative Profile (AP)* in PDF format, including a motivation statement (cover letter) within the AP (to be submitted as an attachment to email submission). *The UN AP (Administrative Profile) can be created by signing up for an account at: <https://inspira.un.org>
 - Applicants should refer to the Annex of this document on [How to Create an Administrative Profile English ESCWA.pdf](#) which contains detailed step- by-step instructions about how to create an AP within the Inspira system and generate a PDF of the document which must be attached to your email submission;
 - There is no Job Opening for this Fellowship within the Inspira system. The instructions referenced above detail how applicants can create a draft AP (not tied to any published Job Opening) within Inspira, and save the draft AP as a PDF for inclusion as an attachment to the applicant’s email submission;
 - The motivation statement is created as part of the online AP creation process in Inspira, and will be visible towards the end of the AP PDF under the heading “Motivation Statement for this Application”;
 - If after reviewing the information above, you are still unable to generate the AP in the indicated PDF format, you may email at escwa-fellowship@un.org for technical support. Please plan your time and attempt to create the draft AP well in advance so that you have sufficient time to seek technical support, if needed.
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- Research proposal (maximum 1,000 words) in a selected thematic area
- Copies of advanced-level academic degrees (Master’s and/or PhD)
- Copy of applicant’s passport (information page/s)
- Two letters of reference or recommendation

An impeccable record for integrity and professional ethical standards is essential.



The United Nations Secretariat is committed to achieving 50/50 gender balance in its recruitment. Qualified female candidates and young scholars are particularly encouraged to apply. The United Nations is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment of mutual respect. Reasonable accommodation for applicants with disabilities may be provided to support participation in the recruitment process when requested and indicated in the application.

Conditions of Fellowship

The following conditions apply:

- Applicants must be **35 years of age or younger** at the time of application.
- Be a **national of ESCWA member States**; preference is given to candidates from least developed countries in the region (Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, the Sudan, and Yemen).
- Applicants must hold an **advanced university degree** (Master's or PhD). The fellowship is not intended for the pursuit of academic degrees, but applied research relevant to development challenges is encouraged.
- Fellows must demonstrate **interest or work/research experience** in the above-mentioned fields or related ESCWA priorities.
- Fellows will work on a predefined project **contributing to the work programme** of the hosting ESCWA division.
- Fellows may **participate in national, regional or international meetings** as part of their learning experience.
- Fellows will **prepare a substantive analytical output** such as a research paper, policy brief or analytical report during the fellowship.

Logistics

The following logistical arrangements will apply:

1. Selected Fellows must be available to travel to the assigned duty station at ESCWA Headquarters in Beirut, upon security clearance. An online modality is feasible under exceptional circumstances.
2. Fellows will receive a round-trip economy class air ticket from the capital of their home country to the duty station.



3. Fellows will receive a monthly stipend of USD 4,000 to cover living expenses for a single individual.
5. ESCWA will support fellows in obtaining residence cards in Lebanon when the assignment duration is six months or longer.
6. ESCWA does not provide medical insurance coverage for fellows. Therefore, fellows will be required to provide proof of medical insurance coverage during the fellowship period.
7. The fellowship programme is for seven months initially, starting on 1 June 2026, and may be extended, subject to programme needs and availability of funding.

Submission

ALL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE EMAILED TO:	
Email Address:	escwa-fellowship@un.org
Subject Line:	<i>ESCWA Fellowship Programme for Young Arab Professionals, 2026 Cohort</i>

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