

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
BRITAIN YEARLY MEETING

QUAKER PEACE & SOCIAL WITNESS and QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE GENEVA

JOB TITLE: Programme Assistant, Quaker United Nations Office
LOCATION: Quaker UN Office, Geneva, Switzerland
ACCOUNTABLE TO: QUNO Director and Representative, Disarmament and Peace
REMUNERATION: See Conditions of service below
DURATION: 1 year from September 2005

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 – 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 an 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 social change.

Friends World Committee for Consultation 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 intervisitation, the collection and circulation of information about Quaker literature and other activities directed towards that end.

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

The work of the 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 trade and development, disarmament and peace, and human rights and refugee issues. 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 is an opportunity for a single young person with an interest in international affairs and in the United Nations to experience a range of United Nations work, while working primarily as an assistant to the Representative for Disarmament and Peace (who is also the Director of QUNO).

The appointment provides a genuine opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge and experience of Quaker international work, partly through working directly on the programme and especially by supporting the other members of the QUNO staff.

Duties and responsibilities

The post will comprise two sets of responsibilities as follows:

1) Programme work (approximately 50% of time)

Assisting the Representative for Disarmament and Peace on his programme of work, including

- attending UN, NGO and other meetings;
- assisting in setting up and participating in meetings at Quaker House;
- writing internal notes and reports;
- collecting, reading, analysing, sorting and filing documents;
- undertaking small research and writing assignments;
- helping to prepare submissions to the UN, and other materials;
- responding to enquiries by letter, email and telephone.

2) Administrative tasks across all three programmes of (approximately 50% of time)

- organising the Geneva Summer School (in cooperation with QPSW London)
- 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
- Maintaining the QUNO data base and other tasks related to QUNO outreach activities
- managing and editing a newsletter (the Geneva Reporter), and assisting in the maintenance of a web site.

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 Programme Assistant's ability and willingness to contribute actively to QUNO's administrative, corporate and programme work. There is no insistence on any particular qualification, but the post would suit a young Friend or person with an understanding of the Quaker approach to the work. Interest, enthusiasm and proven analytical and writing skills are more important than specialist/academic knowledge.

- Applicants will hold a degree or equivalent, or be pursuing further study. They should have a genuine interest in international affairs and the work of the United Nations in general, and in disarmament and peace issues in particular. Currently this programme is particularly concerned with the issue of small arms and light weapons and persons with an interest/background in this area are especially encouraged to apply
- A working knowledge of French, and the willingness to progress towards fluency in French is essential, as is English (which is the working language of the office).
- Computer skills will be an advantage.
- The ability to get on well with all kinds of people, a willingness to help the rest of the team as needed and a sense of humour are as important as academic achievement.
- Age range preferably 21 - 30 years.
- Appointment to this post requires the postholder to be legally eligible for employment within member states of the European Union.

Conditions of Service

Programme Assistants are provided with a modest maintenance allowance which is at present about SFr 1,353 per month (approximately SFr2.3-£1). Accommodation in a 'foyer', a student/young person's residence with single room and shared kitchen and facilities, will be paid for. In addition, savings provision of £100 per month is paid by QPSW. This allowance is reviewed annually and increases take effect from 1 January. For UK citizens, National Insurance contributions at the appropriate rate will also be paid. Expenses and an allowance equivalent to the savings provision will be paid during the period of training.

Programme Assistants may join the BYM Pension scheme, or QPSW will pay into an existing scheme if that is possible.

A bus pass will be provided

All reasonable medical costs will be met while the Programme Assistant is in Geneva. Programme Assistants are covered by Expacare medical insurance for emergency treatment. All QPSW workers are expected to make use of the National Health Service prior to their departure to correct any outstanding dental or other conditions.

Holidays: 27 days per annum, in addition to Geneva public holidays. The days in which the office is closed, other than public holidays, will count as part of the leave allowance. Timing of vacations is to be agreed in

advance with the Director.

Working hours: QUNO follows Swiss custom of a 40 hour work week. Time worked over and above that, if agreed in advance with the Director, is compensated by time off in lieu, to be taken within two weeks at times agreed in consultation with the Director.

Travel costs: Direct travel to Geneva is paid for at the beginning and end of the contract.

Closing date for completed applications: 20 July 2005

Probable interview date: 3 August 2005 in London

Probable starting date: 2 week training period in UK and Switzerland beginning in August, with post to commence 1 September, if possible.

The successful applicant will be expected to complete a medical questionnaire.

**Please return completed application forms to: The Personnel Office, Religious Society of Friends,
Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.**

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