


Vacancy announcement		
UN JPO Programme		
JPO in Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea		
United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea		
		<b>Closing date</b> <b>1 August 2025</b> <b>11:59pm KST</b>
<b><u>Vacancy Announcement # 25P050</u></b>		
<b>I General information</b>		
<b>Title:</b>	JPO in Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea	
<b>Sector of Assignment:</b>	Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea, Legal Affairs	
<b>Country:</b>	USA	
<b>Location (City):</b>	New York	
<b>Agency:</b>	United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	
<b>Duration of Assignment:</b>	The assignment is intended for a minimum duration of 2 years. The initial appointment is for 1 year, renewable based on performance and availability of funds. A reassignment to a different position prior to the conclusion of the second year will not be possible unless expressly indicated in the TORs.	
<b>Grade:</b>	P2 step 1 in the first year, P2 step 2 in the second year	
<b>Note:</b> This position is open in the context of the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) scheme sponsored by the Government of the Republic of Korea and is addressed exclusively to candidates with the Korean citizenship. For general information on the Korean JPO Program and additional conditions see the following website: <a href="https://unrecruit.mofa.go.kr">https://unrecruit.mofa.go.kr</a>		
<b>II Duties, Responsibilities and Output Expectations</b>		
Under the supervision and guidance mentioned below, the JPO in Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea will be assigned to a variety of issues handled by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, with a focus on matters pertaining to the UNFSA and the BBNJ Agreement. In this regard, the Associate Expert in Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea may be responsible for carrying out the following duties:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct extensive legal research and analysis and prepare or assist in the preparation of drafts of background papers, studies, reports of the Secretary-General, comparative analysis, briefs, teaching materials and correspondence dealing with multi-disciplinary legal and other aspects of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the UNFSA Agreement and the BBNJ Agreement, including in relation to matters to be considered by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Agreement;</li><li>• Contribute to the development and implementation of the overall programme of work to prepare for the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement, including by conducting extensive research and preparing background documents for consideration by the Preparatory Commission;</li><li>• Provide assistance in the implementation of the awareness-raising, capacity-building and technical assistance programme for the BBNJ Agreement, including assistance to States in their efforts to become parties to, and implement, the BBNJ Agreement, in particular by preparing outreach and training material on the Agreement and participating in the delivery of briefings and workshops;</li><li>• Prepare and review legal documents, instruments, or other material, including draft host country agreements and consultant contracts;</li><li>• Participate in the recruitment and supervision of consultants, including drafting of terms of reference and contracts, and assist in providing guidance to consultants;</li></ul>		

- Assist in liaising and cooperating with States, other Secretariat offices, the secretariats of relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional, subregional and sectoral bodies, and other stakeholders;
- Assist in servicing meetings convened pursuant to relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the BBNJ Agreement, including the preparation of background materials, summaries of discussions, meeting reports, etc.;
- Assist in representing the Organization at meetings, conferences, seminars, etc.;
- Perform other duties as assigned.

### III Training component: Learning elements and expectations

On completion of the assignment, the JPO will have

- Better understanding of the work of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and of the Office of Legal Affairs;
- Better understanding of the ocean governance landscape;
- Increased knowledge of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and of the BBNJ Agreement;
- Ability to prepare neutral documents and advice in a context of conflicting views and priorities;
- Understanding of the steps and work required to support entry into force of an international legally binding instrument, including the intergovernmental preparatory work and capacity needs of States;
- Ability to draft law of the sea documents, background papers, studies and reports for meetings, conferences, commissions, committees, task forces and other bodies of the UN system;
- Understanding of how intergovernmental meetings, conferences, capacity-building activities, commissions, committees and task forces are organized and supported by the Secretariat, and how to contribute to their successful outcome;
- Better understanding of the internal functioning of the UN Secretariat.

### IV Supervision

#### Title of Supervisor:

Senior Legal Officer

#### Content and Methodology of Supervision:

The incumbent will be briefed and trained on relevant aspects of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its implementing Agreements, in particular the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA Agreement) and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), and of the work of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS). Regular meetings with supervisor and biannual performance assessments will be conducted.

#### Evaluation

The United Nations Performance Evaluation System (e-performance) will serve as a primary platform to evaluate the JPO's performance. Specific tasks, check-lists, timelines, will be provided on an ongoing basis in keeping with the content of an individual workplan discussed with the JPO in the context the e-performance annual cycle. Ongoing feedback will be provided with regard to all assignments.

### V Required Qualifications and Experience

#### Education:

Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in law, with emphasis on courses in public international law, in particular the law of the sea. A first-level university degree in combination with two additional years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

#### Work experience (incl. internships and volunteering):

A minimum of two years of progressively responsible experience in public international law with emphasis on working experience in the law of the sea, including legal analysis, research and writing, is required.

Experience in the following is highly desirable:

- Delivering presentations on matters pertaining to the law of the sea to a wide audience;
- Organizing courses or seminars;
- Working in donor-funded projects;
- Working within an intergovernmental organization and/or intergovernmental processes.

**Languages:**

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For this position, fluency in English (both oral and written) is required. Knowledge of another official language of the United Nations is highly desirable.

**Other Skills:**

- Demonstrated ability to undertake academic research design and execution.
- Experience in academic research within ocean affairs and the law of the sea fields desirable.
- Working knowledge of the ocean-related intergovernmental processes within the United Nations system and other intergovernmental institutions an advantage.
- Ability to manage multiple tasks concurrently prioritizing competing demands, focus and make decisions in a manner consistent with the UN competencies below.

**UN competencies:**

**PROFESSIONALISM:** Knowledge of international law, in particular of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the BBNJ Agreement and related instruments; Analytical skills and ability to conduct legal research on a range of relatively complex and intricate issues, including in relation to the law of the sea and the BBNJ Agreement; proficiency in legal drafting skills and ability to draft clearly and well under time pressure; ability to apply sound judgement in the context of assignments given; shows pride in work and in achievements; demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; 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 all persons in all areas of work. Strong interpersonal and communication (written, spoken and presentational) skills.

**TEAMWORK:** 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.

**PLANNING AND ORGANIZING:** Develops clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as required; allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; uses time efficiently.

**Workforce Diversity**

The United Nations believes that an inclusive culture attracts the best talent and encourages all qualified applicants, regardless of gender, disability, sexual orientation, cultural or religious backgrounds, to apply. The United Nations Secretariat is committed to achieving 50/50 gender balance in its staff.

**VI Background information on Agency/Department/Section**

**Core functions of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea**

- a) Promoting better understanding and wider appreciation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention), the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Convention relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement), and the BBNJ Agreement, and assisting with their uniform and consistent application and implementation

through the provision of information, advice and assistance to States and intergovernmental organizations;

- b) Discharging depositary responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention, other than treaty depositary functions, by maintaining and improving the existing geographic information system for the deposit by States of charts and geographical coordinates concerning maritime zones, including lines of delimitation, submitted pursuant to the Convention, and giving due publicity thereto;
- c) Providing substantive servicing to the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, as well as to the Review Conference on the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and to meetings and/or consultations of States parties to that Agreement;
- d) Perform the secretariat functions in relation to and under the BBNJ Agreement until such time as the secretariat to be established under the Agreement commences its functions;
- e) Providing substantive advice and support to the organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the consistency of instruments and programmes in the respective areas of competence of these organizations with the Convention and the Agreements;
- f) Providing substantive servicing, including geospatial information management servicing and technical facilities, to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in its examination of submissions by coastal States relating to the delineation of the outer limits of their continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines, and supporting training and other activities to assist developing States in the preparation and presentation of their submissions to the Commission;
- g) Implementing relevant provisions of the respective relationship agreements with the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and maintaining liaison with these bodies;
- h) Providing substantive servicing to the General Assembly and to its subsidiary bodies and/or intergovernmental conferences or other processes relating to oceans which the Assembly may establish in respect of issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, such as the Preparatory Commission for the BBNJ Agreement, the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea or the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, including by monitoring and reviewing developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea and reporting thereon to the General Assembly through annual reports on oceans and the law of the sea, on issues related to sustainable fisheries or on other specific topics of interest related to oceans and the law of the sea;
- i) Providing support for the implementation by Member States of the oceans related Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda;
- j) Providing capacity-building and other assistance to developing States, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea, through training, fellowships and technical assistance, as well as through financial support from voluntary trust funds managed by the Division;
- k) Supporting the United Nations Legal Counsel in the discharge of the focal point responsibilities related to UN-Oceans, the inter-agency coordination mechanism on oceans and coastal issues within the United Nations system;
- l) Conducting research and preparing substantive publications on the provisions of the Convention and on diverse issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, such as the Law of the Sea Bulletin;
- m) Maintaining a comprehensive information system, a website and a research library containing materials on ocean affairs and the law of the sea.

For additional information see: <https://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm>

## **VII General requirements for the JPO Programme of the Republic of Korea**

- Korean citizenship
  - Fluency in Korean and English language
  - Completed advanced university degree (master's degree or equivalent). A bachelor's degree and an additional two years of work experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.
  - Not older than 32 years of age as of 31st December of 2025 (Born on or after Jan. 1, 1993) (The maximum age limit for those who served in the military will be extended accordingly\*)
  - Male applicants shall have completed the Korean military service or be exempted from it. Those who will be discharged from military service in the year of the application may also apply.
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- one year will be extended for those who served for less than one year
- two years will be extended for those who served for more than one year and less than two years
- three years will be extended for those who served for two years or more

## VIII How to apply

Applicants should submit their application electronically directly to the Organization.

**All documents should be in English.**

Candidates for this position apply **online** via the Online Application System (OAS)\* portal link provided on <https://owa.undesa.it/oasrok/>

\*Please also make sure to review the guidelines on [how to apply](#) in the Online Application System (OAS).

Applications must be received no later than **1 August 2025 (11:59pm KST)**.

Applications received after this date will not be considered. Applicants will receive a confirmation of receipt.

**Only short-listed candidates will be contacted thereafter.**

## IX Required application documents (only complete applications will be considered)

- The completed United Nations Personal History Profile with motivation letter in English (to be completed in the OAS interface)
- A scanned copy of applicant's Resident Register in English
- A copy of the university degree (Bachelor's/ Master's degree) certificate in English
- A copy of English language proficiency test certificate. Please note that test scores are valid for 2 years after the test date. Applicants should score a minimum of
  - (1) TOEFL iBT 100 or
  - (2) TEPS 430 or
  - (3) IELTS 7 or
  - (4) TOEIC 900
  - TOEFL 'Home Edition' score is accepted while 'MyBest Scores' are not accepted
  - IELTS General Training and Academic test are both accepted
- Only for male applicants who have completed the national military service: A certificate of Korean Military Service in English. The maximum age limit for those who served in the military will be extended in accordance with the Support for Discharged Soldiers Act and the military service law.
- Only for low-income applicants: A scanned copy of applicant's certificate of National Basic Livelihood Security Recipients issued in Korean and its unofficial English translation.
- Only for applicants with disability: A scanned copy of applicant's certificate of person with disability issued in Korean and English.

[Please note that applicants can apply for **a maximum of two JPO positions** sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea during the year of application.]