

Introduction: International Organisations are a very popular career area for Cambridge students and alumni. They are competitive and can be complex and difficult to navigate. To help you with that, we have created this directory of programmes which are aimed at supporting people making their first steps into the field.

What are International Organisations? International Organisations can be defined in different ways. In this directory we are focusing on intergovernmental bodies, formed of at least 3 sovereign states coming together under a formal agreement. They can be regional – with all member states from the same continent, or completely global. By definition, their work is often in areas that cross borders or impact multiple countries. Development banks have a financial and economic focus as the name suggests. Acronyms are everywhere in the field- we have given you the full name and the common acronym, so you can start to become familiar with them.

Roles are used for illustrative purposes: this is not an exhaustive list, and we ask you use your own judgement about the schemes' suitability for your needs. The number and type of schemes being offered varies each year. We do our best to keep this information up to date, but you should always check details with the relevant body. The links are updated each academic year but if you find the link does not work then an internet search for the scheme name should bring it up. Some opportunities will have passed at the time of looking and some will be yet to open. This field is often targeted by scam sites so most bodies will only post vacancies on their own website to avoid confusion- ensure you're at the correct page. You will never be charged for application.

Requirements in International Organisations are usually very strict, forming an important part of their equal opportunities policies. They will not make exceptions to these and if you don't meet them, you will be screened out at an early stage. You should always check requirements carefully. This is quite specific to international organisations, other industries and organisations usually have more flexibility. Some common requirements in more detail:

Citizenship: Almost all international organisations require you to have citizenship for one of their member states. Typically, if you have citizenship of more than one country, you will meet the requirements if one of those is a member state. We haven't listed this in in the table as it applies to all programmes, at the time of writing.

Age limit: You will find both minimum and maximum age limits apply. If you're close to the limit, you should check the criteria for each specific programme. Sometimes age is taken at the point of application, sometimes at the point at which the programme starts and sometimes at another point in the year, for example 31 December.

Degree: A master's degree is a very common entry requirement. However, related internships may be available to applicants with bachelor's degrees. The need to study a relevant subject is more common in this field than is usual in the UK. Where there are very specific subject requirements, we have listed them.

Work experience: If an organisation requires 3 years of full-time relevant work experience, they may not include short term opportunities like internships in their definition. In the table below you will most often find a minimum level of work experience. However, some organisations- particularly related to the EU- have maximum levels of work experience to ensure the opportunity goes to people who are new to the organisation.

Languages: Language skills are often desirable, if not required. English is one of the required languages across the board and University of Cambridge students will almost certainly have met equivalent requirements as a condition of studying here.

Internships and traineeships: Internships in this field are competitive. They can be paid, unpaid or paid a stipend- to cover expenses. Even where the main programme requires a masters degree, the internships are often available to applicants with a bachelors degree. Some internships and traineeships require you to be currently studying or within a few months of finishing your degree.

Other opportunities: Remember that young professional programmes and graduate schemes are not the only way to get a job in international organisations. To find positions to apply to directly, you would usually use each organisation's own website. The UN has a range of entry points which are explained in a separate table. Our website <https://www.careers.cam.ac.uk/sectors-international-organisations> lists several reputable vacancy sites where you can find consultancies and Junior Professional Officer roles (explained below).

Body and programme title	Age restriction	Degree	Work experience	Required Languages	Length	Applications typically open	Other opportunities
African Development Bank YPP- young professionals programme	Under 32	Masters	3 years work experience in high priority areas; Hands-on experience on the African continent and/or in developing countries	English or French	3 years	October	Internships- stipend
Asian Development Bank (ADP) YPP- Young Professionals Program	Under 32	Bachelors in relevant field	3 years relevant professional experience	English	3 years	September	Internships- stipend Research fellowships
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Graduate Program	-	Master's + 1-2 years relevant working experience OR Bachelor's + 2-3 years relevant working experience		English	2 years	December	Internship- stipend
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) LAP- Legal Associate Program	-	Advanced law degree	Two years full-time, relevant legal professional experience; Admitted to practice law in at least one jurisdiction	English	2 years	December	
Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) YPP- Young Professionals Programme	Under 32	Masters in relevant field	Two years' relevant work experience	English	2 years	-	Internship- stipend

Body and programme title	Age restriction	Degree	Work experience	Required Languages	Length	Applications typically open	Other opportunities
Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) YPP- Young Professionals Program	Under 32	Masters	One year relevant work experience (more is preferable)	English	2 years	-	Internship- unpaid
European Free Trade Association (EFTA) JPP- Junior Professional Programme	-	Bachelors	-	English	11 months	January	-
European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) IPP- International Professionals Programme	-	Recent Bachelors in relevant field	6-12 months experience	English; Another language is an asset	2 years	April	Internships- paid
European Central Bank (ECB) Graduate programme	-	Masters (PhD is an advantage)	-	English + one other EU language	2 years	December	Traineeship- stipend
European Investment Bank (EIB) Graduate programme	-	Bachelors	Less than two years of work experience	English or French (and a commitment to learn the other)	1-4 years	-	Traineeship- stipend
European Investment Fund (EIF) ECP- Early Career Programme	-	-	Less than 24 months of work experience	Unclear but likely to be two EU languages as elsewhere in EU	3 years	-	Internship- stipend
European Space Agency (ESA) YGT- Young Graduate Traineeship	-	Master's in engineering science or business	Less than 1 year of professional experience	English or French; Knowledge of another Member State language is an asset.	1 year	February	Internships- stipend Fellowships 'National traineeships' similar to JPO
European Union (EU) Blue Book traineeships	-	Bachelors	No more than 6 weeks of work experience of any kind, in any EU institution	2 EU languages one of which must be French, English or German	5 months	July and January (two rounds)	Traineeships, majority paid

Body and programme title	Age restriction	Degree	Work experience	Required Languages	Length	Applications typically open	Other opportunities
European Union (EU) JPD- Junior Professional in an EU Delegation	-	Masters in relevant field	No more than 1 year of professional experience in an EU institution;	English and/or French; Knowledge of other languages is an asset;	12 months	Every other January (next 2025)	
International Monetary Fund (IMF) RAP- Research Assistant Programme	-	Bachelor's in economics, computer science, statistics, maths, or business	-	-	2 years	-	Internship- paid IMF Youth Fellowship Programme Experienced Economist
International Monetary Fund (IMF) EP- Economist Program	Under 34	Recent PhD in relevant field	-	English	3 years	September	
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) YPP- Young Professionals Program	Under 32	Masters in relevant field	Relevant professional experience is viewed favourably	English; Good command of Arabic or French will be viewed favourably.	24 months	June	Internship (unclear if paid)
North Atlantic Treaty organisation (NATO) YPP- Young Professionals Programme	Over 21	Masters or higher	1 year work experience	English or French; other languages an asset,	3 years	January	Internship- stipend and expenses paid
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) YAP- Young Associates Programme	Under 65	Final year Bachelors only	Relevant work or extra curricular experience is an asset	English or French (and a commitment to learn the other)	2 years	November	Internship- stipend
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) YPDP- Young professional development program	Under 30	Master's	3 years work experience	English; Proficiency in more languages is desirable	2 years	-	Internship (unclear if paid)
World Bank Group (WBP)	Under 32	Masters or Doctorate	3 years relevant experience;	English;	2 years as part of 5	July	Internships- paid Fellowships

Body and programme title	Age restriction	Degree	Work experience	Required Languages	Length	Applications typically open	Other opportunities
<u>YPP- Young Professionals Programme</u>			Work experience in emerging markets or developing countries is desirable	Desirable to have Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, or Spanish	year contract		
World Bank Group (WBP) <u>JPA-Junior Professional Associates Program</u>	Under 28	Bachelor's	-		2 years	Ongoing	
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) <u>YEP-Young Experts Program</u>	Under 35 years	Bachelor's	2 years' relevant experience	English; Knowledge of other UN languages is preferred	2 years	-	Internship (unclear if paid)
World Trade Organisation (WTO) <u>YPP- Young Professionals Programme</u>	Under 32	Advanced university degree in law, economics, or other relevant field	2 years' relevant experience	English; Working knowledge of French or Spanish, would be an advantage	1 year	March	Internship-stipend

United Nations entry routes:

The UN (United Nations) is probably the best known of the international organisations. It is huge and complex with many subsidiary bodies and field offices in different countries. Their [website gives some insight into these complexities](#). All jobs are advertised through <https://careers.un.org/job-level> and drop-down menus at the bottom of that page have more details. As a general rule, language proficiency is required for all positions, in particular English and/or French, the two working languages of the UN Secretariat. The six official UN languages are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Other language(s) might be required depending on the duty station.

Programme title	Notes	Age restriction	Degree	Work experience	Length	Applications typically open
YPP- Young Professionals Programme	Only open to citizens of countries on the target list, which varies year to year. The programme seeks to increase employees who are nationals of an unrepresented or underrepresented country in the UN. Some countries remain on the target list for several years, others may come and go. Applicants take an exam in specific subject areas. If successful, you are placed on a roster for jobs for 3 years and will be employed if a suitable vacancy arises (not guaranteed!)	Under 32	Bachelors	-	3 years on roster-offered job can be temporary or permanent	June
CELP- Competitive Examinations for Language Positions	CELP is an exam which must be passed in order for the applicant to be placed on a roster for work as copy preparers /proofreaders / editors /interpreters /translators and verbatim reporters. See our YouTube video Interpreting and translation for more details about what the role can look like	Under 56	Bachelors, in modern languages, translation, interpretation or relevant subject; Master's, PhD or postgraduate diploma preferred.	Desirable: 2+ years of non-academic experience in translation, verbatim reporting, editing or a related field.	varied	varied
JPO- Junior Professional Officer	The JPO (junior professional officer) programme is where a country pays the salary of junior staffers to get more of their nationals into the UN system. We have indicated typical requirements but it varies, so always check your own country's requirements. Some countries also support JPOs from developing countries. The UK has not sponsored JPOs recently but advertises through impactpool.org when it does. Some countries are very active.	Usually under 32	Usually Masters	Usually 2 years work exp	Usually 2-3 year prog.	varied

Programme title	Notes	Age restriction	Degree	Work experience	Length	Applications typically open
Internships	This link takes you to the main page which states all UN internships are unpaid but increasing numbers pay a stipend to cover expenses, you can see this on individual job postings.	-	Any degree, for applicants in final year or the year after	-	2-6 months	varied
UNV- United Nation Volunteers	UNVs receive a Volunteer Living Allowance (VLA). It is designed to cover basic living expenses, such as accommodation, food, and transportation. The amount varies depending on the country and location of assignment, typically ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,200. UNVs also receive travel expenses, insurance and a settling in grant.	Over 25 for international placements Over 22 national placements	Bachelors (some may specify Masters)	Two years	6-12 months	varied
UN youth volunteer	UN Youth Volunteers receive a basic living allowance, travel expenses and some other basic costs.	Between 18 and 26	-	-	6-24 months	varied
Consultancies	This is UN jargon for short term contracts where you're not an official employee of the UN. You don't necessarily need a 'consultant' level of experience, this article has a brief explanation. Some UN bodies have more consultants than they do staff, as they focus on project-based assignments. Consultancy opportunities can be found using job sites like ImpactPool , Reliefweb and the UN's own website , filtered by 'consultants'	-	-	-	6-24 months	varied

Further information

Our [webpage](#) ; Our YouTube [playlist](#)

LSE holds an annual international organisations careers fair, where they provide a limited number of tickets to other universities, including Cambridge. As part of this, they also share some recordings of presentations by attending organisations which you may find useful to review.

November 2023

- [Institute of Migration \(IoM\)](#)
- [United Nations Volunteers \(UNV\)](#)
- [Asian Development Bank \(ADB\)](#)
- [European Bank of Reconstruction & Development \(EBRD\)](#)
- [Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development \(OECD\)](#)
- [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#)
- [United Nations Fund for Population Activities \(UNFPA\)](#)
- [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#)
- [United Nations Industrial Development Organisation \(UNIDO\)](#)
- [United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#)
- [Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank \(AIIB\)](#)
- [World Economic Fund \(WEF\)](#)