

Careers in International Organizations: A Meeting for students and alumnis focused on UN City in Copenhagen

The French Alumni Network of the University of Copenhagen (FAF) recently organized an event dedicated to careers in international organizations, with a particular focus on UN City in Copenhagen.

The event was primarily aimed at final-year students, recent graduates, and individuals interested in international relations, foreign languages, and multicultural working environments.

During the meeting, a representative associated with UN City presented various aspects of working in international organizations, as well as opportunities for internships, employment, and career development within the sector.

What Profiles Are International Organizations Looking For?

Several important points were highlighted regarding the skills and backgrounds valued by international organizations:

- Proficiency in several foreign languages;
- A strong understanding of cultures and intercultural communication;
- An interest in international relations;
- International experience, whether through studies or employment;
- The ability to approach complex topics at an advanced academic level.

It was also emphasized that many candidates already living in Denmark or Copenhagen possess qualifications that are highly sought after by international organizations.

Internships and Entry-Level Opportunities

A significant part of the discussion focused on internships and pathways into international organizations. Participants received information about:

- Different types of positions;
- Typical job descriptions and responsibilities;
- Contracts and working conditions;
- International mobility opportunities;
- Recruitment platforms and job postings.

The specialized website EuroBrussels was mentioned as a useful resource for finding job and internship opportunities within European institutions and international organizations, including through its dedicated internship portal.

It was also explained that many international positions are not advertised directly in Denmark, making international networks and specialized recruitment platforms particularly important.

Common job portals to search include Impactpool (jobs across UN agencies, NGOs and EU institutions), UNjobs.org and the UN Careers portal (careers.un.org).

Applications are submitted online and you normally create a profile where your CV/resume is stored for future applications — look specifically for listings marked "Internship" if that is your interest.

Some job postings have a very specialized vocabulary and can contain some insider requirements of a lot of things. Just answer as good as you can. Nobody may have all skills at once.

<https://careers.un.org/how-to-apply?language=en>

For European roles, visit eurobrussels.com and its internship portal. Note that European employers sometimes expect different CV formats (e.g., Europass) than UN systems, so tailor your resume to the target portal.

UN City and International Professional Life

Participants also gained insight into the general functioning of UN City in Copenhagen, where several United Nations agencies are represented.

Topics discussed included:

- The international teams working on site;
- Internship opportunities and funding possibilities;
- International careers and assignments ("duty stations") in different countries;
- Opportunities for academic collaboration and research.

It was also noted that UN City can be visited freely on certain Fridays, providing an excellent introduction for students interested in this professional environment.

Inspiration for Language Students

The event demonstrated how studies in languages, communication, and culture can open the door to a wide range of international careers.

For students at the Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies (ENGEROM/KUA), international organizations represent a concrete opportunity to apply their linguistic, intercultural, and analytical skills in a global professional context.

There are opportunities for thesis topics with strong, practical content—students can pursue dissertations or project-based theses in collaboration with UN agencies or international organizations.

Many students already live in Copenhagen, which makes logistics such as accommodation, cultural adaptation and administrative paperwork easier when taking internships or short-term positions.

Common UN jobs

Common job categories typically include P (Professional), G (General Service), and C (Consultant/Contract), each with different levels of responsibility and experience requirements.

Applications are submitted online, and job announcements are often written very precisely, specifying both mandatory and desirable qualifications. It is common for applicants not to meet every requirement, but relevant experience and demonstrated potential are also important considerations.

Salaries for international positions may, in many cases, be exempt from Danish income tax, depending on the employment status and the applicable agreements. Some positions also require international mobility, meaning that staff members may be reassigned between different duty stations during their careers.



International Career Resources

Useful platforms for internships, jobs and career opportunities in international organizations



Impactpool.org

*Jobs and internships with UN agencies, NGOs and development organizations. ****

UN Careers Portal

Official recruitment portal for United Nations career opportunities worldwide.

EuroBrussels.com

*Jobs and internships with UN agencies, NGOs and development organizations. ***

UNjobs.org

*Aggregated vacancies**

UN.dk

UN City Copenhagen, all organizations

EuroBrussels Internships

Portal of internships in organizations in Europe

UN Careers – How to Apply

Some advice before posting your application

UN Volunteers

Start your career as a volunteer

United nations in Denmark

UN City, participating UN agencies, and visitor opportunities in Copenhagen.

Europass

European CV and skills documentation platform commonly used for applications within Europe.

Young Professionals Programme (YPP)

Entry pathway for highly qualified young professionals seeking a career within UN

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Links

[UN Careers – How to Apply](#)

[UN Careers Portal](#)

[eurobrussels.com](#)

[EuroBrussels Internships](#)

[Impactpool](#)

[UNjobs.org](#)

[UN City Copenhagen](#)

[United Nations in Denmark](#)

[Europass](#)

[UN Volunteers \(UNV\)](#)

[Young Professionals Programme \(YPP\)](#)