

Job Description for Professional Posts

Reference: NA2025/41

Position and Grade:	Associate Food Safety Officer, P2
Organizational Unit:	Food Safety and Control Section Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
Duty Station:	Vienna, Austria
Type/Duration of Appointment:	FT – JPO, 1 year

Organizational Setting

The Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications implements the IAEA's Major Programme 2, "Nuclear Techniques for Development and Environmental Protection". This Major Programme comprises individual programmes on food and agriculture, human health, water resources, environment and radiation technologies. These programmes are supported by laboratories in Seibersdorf, Monaco and Vienna. The Major Programme's objective is to enhance the capacity of Member States to meet basic human needs and to assess and manage the marine and terrestrial environments through the use of nuclear and isotopic techniques in sustainable development programmes.

The Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture assists Member States of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the IAEA in using nuclear techniques and related technologies to improve food security, alleviate poverty and promote sustainable agriculture. The Joint Centre consists of five Sections, each with an associated laboratory (located in Seibersdorf, 45 km south-east of Vienna), in the areas of: animal production and health; plant breeding and genetics; insect pest control; soil and water management and crop nutrition; and food and environmental protection.

The Food Safety and Control Section and Laboratory assist Member States in ensuring the safety and quality of food and agricultural commodities through the development of analytical techniques and application of food irradiation, focusing on the use of nuclear and related technologies in the management of food and environmental hazards and on strengthening capacities for nuclear emergency preparedness and response in agriculture.

Main Purpose

As a member of a team led by the Head of the Food Safety and Control Section, the Associate Food Safety Officer contributes to a results-based programme in response to Member States' priorities in the application of nuclear and related technologies to meet their food security goals as related to the control of chemical residues and contaminants in foods, within the general context of improving food quality and safety and facilitating international trade in foods.

Role

The Associate Food Safety Officer is: (i) a technical officer, assisting in the evaluation and implementation of technical cooperation projects for the IAEA and FAO; (ii) a team member, contributing to the planning and implementation of technical meetings and project review missions; and (iii) a facilitator, working with Member States to help meet their agricultural development objectives.

Partnerships

The Associate Food Safety Officer closely interacts with national counterparts in Member State institutions regarding project planning and implementation to ensure the effective transfer and sharing of technical information. The incumbent collaborates with appropriate UN organizations, particularly FAO, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other international, regional and national institutions. She/he works closely with the appropriate personnel in the IAEA Technical Cooperation Department and in the Food Safety and Control laboratory to ensure the effective utilization of technical inputs to implementation of field-based activities.

Functions / Key Results Expected

- Support the technical cooperation programme through the evaluation of relevant project requests.
- Assist in the implementation of expert assignments, training and purchase of equipment for assigned technical cooperation projects.
- Prepare and review guidance documents on sampling strategies and analytical methodology.
- Contribute to the maintenance and update of databases.
- Contribute to the planning and organization of scientific, technical and advisory meetings
- Prepare and present training materials, including eLearning materials.
- Evaluate scientific data and prepare technical reports and scientific manuscripts for publication.

Competencies and Expertise (do not revise or edit)

Core Competencies		
Competence	Occupational Role	Behavioural Indicator
Communication	Individual Contributor	Communicates orally and in writing in a clear, concise and impartial manner. Takes time to listen and understand the perspective of others and proposes solutions.
Achieving Results	Individual Contributor	Takes initiative in defining realistic outputs and clarifying roles, responsibilities and expected results in the context of the Department/Division's programme. Evaluates his/her results realistically, drawing conclusions from lessons learned.
Teamwork	Individual Contributor	Actively contributes to achieving team results. Supports team decisions.
Planning and Organizing	Individual Contributor	Plans and organizes his/her own work in support of achieving the team or Section's priorities. Takes into account potential changes and proposes contingency plans.

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Functional Competencies		
Competence	Occupational Role	Behavioural Indicator
Analytical thinking	Associate	Gathers and analyses information, identifying critical relationships and patterns among data and proposes workable solutions.
Knowledge sharing and learning	Associate	Actively seeks opportunities to learn by formal and informal means; learns from others, adopting and sharing best practice.
Technical/scientific credibility	Associate	Acquires and applies new skills to remain up to date in his/her area of expertise. Reliably applies knowledge of basic technical/ scientific methods and concepts
Commitment to continuous process improvement	Associate	Identifies opportunities for process, system and structural improvement as well as improving current practices, increasing effectiveness and achieving efficiency gains. Actively supports the application of sound quality management standards and process improvement.

Expertise	
Expertise	Description
Food Science and Technology	Knowledge of food safety issues affecting consumer health and trade, international food safety guidelines, and food safety control systems.
Food Science and Technology	Good knowledge of, and practical skills in, analytical methods and instrumentation for the analysis of foods for residues and contaminants.
Food Science and Technology	Knowledge of laboratory quality assurance and quality control procedures and accreditation.

Education, Experience and Language Skills

- University degree in food science, chemistry or other related field.
- Minimum of two years' working experience in a laboratory or food safety environment.
- Experience of project management, teaching or training an advantage.
- Excellent oral and written command of English. Knowledge of other official IAEA languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish) is an asset.

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