

## Frequently Asked Questions about the 2007 Human Rights Fellowship Programme for Students from Least Developed Countries

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### 1. What is the application procedure for this Fellowship Programme?

To apply for the Programme, please read the instructions on [the application form](#) carefully, complete the form legibly and ensure that it arrives before the **deadline of 20 August 2007**. Applications arriving after the deadline will not be considered.

Applicants should submit the following documentation:

- A covering motivation letter stating the reason for applying to the Programme, indicating the benefits that are expected to be derived from the training and career goals;
- A duly completed and signed [application form](#);
- One recommendation letter. Please see page 5 of [the application form](#).

### 2. Can I only send my application by Email or Fax?

Faxed and e-mailed applications are accepted, especially if you would otherwise risk missing the application deadline. Nevertheless, since faxed and emailed documents are often difficult to read you must subsequently send your **original application to us by post**.

### 3. Can I apply simultaneously to this Fellowship Programme and to other Fellowship Programmes offered by the United Nations System?

Yes, you can of course apply to this Fellowship Programme and to other Fellowship Programmes. However, if you are selected for the Human Rights Fellowship Programme you will be under the obligation to immediately inform the organizers of your availability and willingness to participate **fully and exclusively** in the Programme.

### 4. Can I send my application to UNITAR directly or should I go via UNDP, OHCHR, my Embassy or my Permanent Mission?

Absolutely. All applications should be sent directly to UNITAR.

**5. Can I apply to the Programme as a self-paying candidate?**

No, for the moment the Fellowship Programme is not open for self-paying candidates.

**6. If I am selected, is it possible to attend only part of the Programme or only those courses that are of particular interest to me?**

No. We receive so many applications from candidates willing to attend the Programme in its entirety that we will not accommodate participants who intend to pick and choose.

**7. Can I send my application on the last day of the deadline?**

Please don't! 30% to 40% of all applications arrive on the very last day. Please send yours earlier, if possible. This will also be for your own benefit: on the last day of the deadline, our fax machine is extremely busy and you may have trouble getting through. More importantly, if your application is not legible due to transmission problems or lacks certain documents there will be no time left to improve it and your application will simply be ignored. If you fax your application, please do not forget to send the original to us by post afterwards.

**8. What happens to an application that arrives too late?**

Please respect the application deadline! The organizers are under no obligation to consider late applications. However, if there is evidence that you have tried hard to submit your application on time without success due to communication problems and if there is nonetheless a delay of a **few days**, it is unlikely that the organisers will ignore your application. If you are in danger of missing the deadline, please contact UNITAR **before** it has passed so that we are aware of your problem and can advise you accordingly.

**9. Is the competition for the Fellowship very high? Can I do anything to increase my chances?**

Yes, there is a huge competition for the Fellowship and we usually receive a lot of applications, but this should not discourage anybody from applying.

**10. I do not want to apply now, but maybe next year. What do I do?**

Please check the OHCHR and UNITAR website regularly for course announcements and updated information.

**11. If I send my application, does it mean that I will get automatically selected?**

No. The organizers will study every application carefully and will only inform the selected participants about the status of their candidatures.

**12. What are the selection criteria?**

The non-exhaustive criteria list includes:

- Qualification
- Usefulness of the training for the fellow's future career
- Fair geographical distribution
- Equitable gender distribution

**13. Is the upper age limit of 30 years strictly respected?**

Yes. Applications from persons aged 31 or more will not be considered. You must be 30 or less on the day on which you apply.

**14. When will the selection results be announced?**

Selected participants will be informed about the status of their candidatures before 3 September 2007.

**15. I have not been awarded the Fellowship. Is there anything that I can still do?**

No, unfortunately not. The decisions of the selection committee are final and will not be reconsidered. Please do not try to negotiate with us. You can, however, re-apply for the following cycle.

**16. Why is my country not part of the United Nations Least Developed Countries' list?**

The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations identifies LDCs according to a set of three criteria. You can find more information about this issue on the website of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) at: <http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrlls/ldc/ldc%20criteria.htm>

**17. What is the amount of the cash stipend that fellows will receive?**

The stipend rates are set by United Nations regulations and can vary quite a bit from year to year, depending on the US\$ exchange rate. The stipends that fellows will receive reflect local living costs (food and household items, public transport, entertainment) and are sufficient for a decent (but by no means luxurious) living standard.

**18. Will the organizers cover the costs related to the fellows' air tickets?**

Indeed, the organizers will cover the costs related to the fellows' air tickets, visa, housing in Geneva and insurance.

**19. If I am selected, can I bring family members or friends to stay with me in Geneva?**

No. It is strictly prohibited to bring spouses, children, family members, relatives or friends with you. If you cannot stay away from them for the whole period, please do not apply for the Fellowship Programme.