



CORE VALUES: *INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM, RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY*

UNON/OIF Fellowship Programme for Young African Interpreters Call for Applications – 2026 Cohort

Application deadline: 8 October 2026

Organizational Setting and Reporting Relationships

The United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), in partnership with the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and as part of the development by the OIF of the programme in translation and conference interpretation at the *Collège international de Villers-Cotterêts (Cité internationale de la langue française)*, is launching a pilot fellowship programme aimed at strengthening the pool of qualified African language professionals and preparing young translators and interpreters for the standards and competitive examinations of the language services of the United Nations system, including the DGACM.

This initiative will contribute to the promotion of multilingualism within international organizations and supports the professional development and employability of young African language professionals.

The 6-week fellowship programme will begin with a pilot cohort for 2026. It is planned to be implemented between 6 November and 18 December 2026, within the Interpretation Section (IS) of the Division of Conference Services (DCS) of UNON, Kenya, and will combine practical immersion in UN language-service workflows, mentoring by experienced professionals, and targeted professional development activities.

Fellowship Areas

The fellowship programme is open to young African professionals specialized in conference interpretation. It will primarily focus on French language professionals, with strong working knowledge of English required. Knowledge of another UN official language is an advantage.

Responsibilities

Under the supervision of experienced language staff members within DCS/IS, fellows will contribute to selected activities related to multilingual conference services, such as:

- Dummy booth;
- Research and terminology work;

- Participation in mentoring and professional development activities;
- Familiarization with multilingual conference servicing workflows;
- Participation in practical exercises and simulations related to UN language examinations;
- Support to selected multilingual communication and conference-related activities.

The fellows will also participate in structured learning and mentoring activities and online seminars/modules developed jointly by UNON and the OIF.

Competencies

Professionalism: Ability to demonstrate a high level of concentration and split-second accuracy; ability to work under continuous stress in high pressured environments, under tight deadlines, and deliver clear interpretation on an exceedingly broad range of subjects; 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.

Communication: Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; asks questions to clarify and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; tailors language, tone, style and format to match audience; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed.

Teamwork: Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve common 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.

Qualifications, target audience and eligibility criteria

- Be under 35 years of age at the time of application;
- Hold a master's degree in conference interpreting from one of the PAMCIT (*Pan African Masters Consortium in Interpretation and Translation*) Universities;
- Have obtained the required degree within the last three years;
- Have French as their A or retour language, and English as their B or C language;
- Possibly have Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Kiswahili, Russian or German as additional passive languages;
- Demonstrate a strong interest in conference interpreting in an international setting;
- Be available to participate in the full duration of the programme in person in Nairobi.

Special Notice

This call is open only to graduates of universities that are members of the PAMCIT (*Pan African*

Masters Consortium in Interpretation and Translation), i.e. the University of Nairobi (Kenya), the University of Buea (Cameroon), the University of Ghana (Ghana), the Gaston Berger University (Senegal), and the Pedagogical University of Maputo (Mozambique)

Applications from women are strongly encouraged.

For more information on the fellowship programme, please consult:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/fellowship/fellowships/>

Candidates must submit the following documents **compiled into a single PDF file**:

- Motivation letter in French;
- Curriculum vitae in French;
- Copy of master's degree in conference interpreting or, if unavailable, a certificate of completion, and transcripts;
- Copy of valid passport information page.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to participate in an online interpretation assessment (tentatively planned for 10 October 2026) and/or an online interview.

The selection process will be conducted jointly by UNON and the OIF.

Logistics

The fellowship programme will take place in Nairobi, Kenya.

The duration of the fellowship is expected to be 6 weeks.

Selected fellows will receive:

- a monthly stipend of USD 3,000;
- a one-time settling-in grant of USD 1,300;
- return air travel between the fellow's country of residence in Africa and Nairobi;
- medical insurance coverage arrangements.

ALL APPLICATIONS TO BE EMAILED TO:	
Email Address:	claire.gasnault-vuiart@un.org
Subject Line:	UNON/OIF Fellowship for Young Interpreters, 2026

Application deadline

- Applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Nairobi time on 8 October 2026. Early submissions will be highly appreciated.
- Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
- **Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**