American Consulate General, Chennai

January 6, 2015

Vacancy Announcement Number: CHE-PSAP-2015-01-T1

OPEN TO: **All Interested Candidates**

POSITION: Political/Economic Specialist **(TRAINEE LEVEL)**
(FSN-1510-10, position #: MLA-120001-T1)
(Personal Services Agreement)

Level (Trainee Level) - FSN-10; FP-05 (5 through 14)

(The position will be filled at the appropriate level, depending on the selected candidate).

OPENING DATE: January 7, 2015

CLOSING DATE: February 2, 2015

WORK HOURS: Full-time; 40 hours/week

SALARY: Not Ordinarily Resident (NOR) - Grade: FP-05 (5 through 14)
Ordinarily Resident (OR) - Grade: FSN-10*

*Starting salary and grade will be determined on the basis of qualifications and experience, and/or salary history.

ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT (OR) APPLICANTS (see **Definitions**) MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

American Consulate General, Chennai, is seeking an individual for the position of Political/Economic Specialist in the Pol/Econ section.

NOTE-1: Applicants who respond to Vacancy Announcement number CHE-PSAP-2015-01 need not apply again for this announcement.

NOTE-2: Applicants who applied in the prescribed format for the earlier announcements (CHE-PSAP-2014-06-T1 / CHE-PSAP-2014-06) may not apply again if there are no changes to the information provided in the application.

Applicants must apply on U.S. Mission's Universal Application for Employment (UAE) form and specify the vacancy announcement number. Applications not completed on UAE form, or without reference to a specific vacancy number will not be considered. Only completed forms will be considered. (Refer to application procedure below)

Only applicants who are selected for skills test/interview will be contacted.

BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

This is a trainee level position for the Senior Political/Economic Specialist position. The incumbent will work under general supervision and guidance of the Political/Economic Officer and learn to perform and master the below duties and responsibilities to reach full performance level:
Establish and maintain strong contact with senior leaders in state governments, politics, civil society, think tanks, and other spheres of public life. Monitor, analyze and report on political, economic and other significant events and trends of regional and national importance within the Consular district. Bear primary responsibility for political reporting in Tamil Nadu, and political and economic reporting in Kerala. Serve as backup for political and economic reporting for Karnataka and the Union Territories of South India. Manage tour programs of US Government officials as required, including advising on the planning and coordination of schedules. Coordinate the work of the two other political/economic specialists in the section.

Major duties and responsibilities include but not limited to:

Establish and maintain personal contacts with senior government officials, ministers, secretaries, and other opinion leaders of South India, with a particular focus on Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the two states of primary responsibility, and Karnataka, the state of backup responsibility. Collect and process information of interest to the U.S. government from contacts. Maintain and update contact base of political, business, media, industry and civil society leaders, and prominent citizens. Advise Political/Economic Officers and Consul General on political nuances, personalities, and cultural sensitivities in the region.

Keep abreast of national and regional political and economic developments and district- wide trends; assess their impact and importance and report orally and in writing to the American Political/Economic Officers and Consul General. On own initiative or upon direction, advise officers on topics of political, and economic and social significance; contribute suggestions or ideas for mission reporting and analysis, and bring into focus significant events or published information from mass media, after vetting their accuracy and reliability.

Prepare analytical reports on major trends in Consular District. Prepare briefing materials/books for visiting American officers, VIPs and senior State Department officials, memoranda of conversations, and biographic sketches. Draft cables on political and economic developments and trends, and on local developments and their impact at the national level.

Plan and coordinate travel schedules for senior State Department officials visiting South India. Travel with Consul General and Political/Economic Officer, and other visiting officials throughout the district to maximize the value of travel and to convey the importance of current issues in the region.

Coordinate the work of two other Pol/Econ Specialists in the section and assist the Pol/Econ officer in reviewing their drafts to ensure the materials are accurate, analytical and concise.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

- Master's Degree in Political Science, Economics, Journalism, International Relations, Law, History, Literature, or Social Sciences, with proven academic distinction is required.

- A minimum of 6 years of progressively responsible experience in similar work involving high-level official contacts, analysis, interpretation, and writing in English.

- Required language proficiency:
    - English: level IV (fluency) in speaking; level IV in reading; level IV in writing. Must have excellent writing skills.

    - Tamil / Malayalam / Kannada: level III (good working knowledge) in speaking and level III in reading.

      (When applying for the position, please indicate your level of proficiency in the languages).

- Wide- ranging knowledge of senior political and government leaders and opinion leaders of South India, its important institutions and places of significance. Good working knowledge of State government procedure/protocol. Thorough knowledge of the politics, economy, society and history of India in general and South India in particular. Thorough understanding of complex social structures and customs, as well as official protocol.

- Ability to develop/maintain extensive high-level contacts; outline and manage high level USG visitors' programs; advise Mission officers on advocacy strategy; handle information diplomatically on issues such as human rights and religious

freedom, and sensitive biographic details; draft high-quality briefing materials, such as U.S. Ambassador's talking points with Chief Ministers; synthesize political, economic and social developments for reporting, and draft accurate, perceptive reports/research projects. Strong interpersonal and teamwork with colleagues across various sections in the Consulate a must.

- Proficiency in MS Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint), MS Outlook and Internet is required.

A copy of the complete position description listing all duties and responsibilities is available in the Human Resources Office.

SELECTION PROCESS

When fully qualified, U.S. Citizen Eligible Family Members (USEFMs) and U.S. Veterans are given preference. Therefore, it is essential that the candidate specifically address the required qualifications above in the application.

ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Management will consider nepotism/conflict of interest, budget, and residency status in determining successful candidacy.

2. Current employees serving a probationary period are not eligible to apply.

3. Current Ordinarily Resident employees with an Overall Summary Rating of Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory on their most recent Employee Performance Report are not eligible to apply.

4. Currently employed U.S. Citizen EFMs who hold a Family Member Appointment (FMA) are ineligible to apply for advertised positions within the first 90 calendar days of their employment.

5. Currently employed NORs hired under a Personal Services Agreement (PSA) are ineligible to apply for advertised positions within the first 90 calendar days of their employment unless currently hired into a position with a When Actually Employed (WAE) work schedule.

TO APPLY

Interested applicants for this position should submit the following:

- Universal Application for Employment (UAE) as a Locally Employed Staff or Family Member (DS-0174) is available on website: http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/job_opportunities.html **or**

- A current resume or curriculum vitae that provides the same information found on the UAE (see **Appendix A**); **or**

- A combination of both; i.e. Sections 1 -24 of the UAE along with a listing of the applicant's work experience attached as a separate sheet; **plus**

- Candidates who claim U.S. Veterans preference must provide a copy of their Form DD-0214 with their application. Candidates who claim conditional U.S. Veterans preference must submit documentation confirming eligibility for a conditional preference in hiring with their application.

- Any other documentation (e.g., essays, certificates, awards) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above.

SUBMIT APPLICATION TO

American Consulate General
Human Resources Office
Attention: Management Officer
220 Anna Salai
Chennai 600 006
or
FAX: 2857 4455/ 2811 2020
or
E-mail: chennai-vacancies@state.gov
(Please insert "CHE-PSAP-2015-01-T1" (Vacancy Announcement Number) in the subject line of the e-mail. Applications without the announcement number or with incorrect announcement number will not be considered).

POINT OF CONTACT

Vijaya Mahesh
Human Resources Office
Telephone: 2857-4000 / 2857-4115

APPENDIX A

If an applicant is submitting a resume or curriculum vitae, s/he must provide the following information equal to what is found on the UAE.

<u>Failure to do so will result in an incomplete application</u>.

A. Position Title
B. Position Grade
C. Vacancy Announcement Number
D. Dates Available for Work
E. First, Middle, & Last Names as well as any other names used
F. Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy) & Place of Birth (city, country)
G. Current Address, Day, Evening, and Cell phone numbers
H. U.S. Citizenship Status *(Yes or No)* & status of permanent U.S. Resident (Yes or No; if Yes, Provide Number)
I. U.S. Social Security Number and/or Identification Number
J. Eligibility to work in the country *(Yes or No)*
K. Special Accommodations the Mission needs to provide *(Yes or No; if yes, provide explanation)*
L. If applying for position that includes driving a U.S. Government vehicle, Driver's License Class / Type
M. Days available to work
N. List any relatives or members of your household that work for the U.S. Government (include their Name, Relationship, & Agency, Position, Location)
O. U.S. Eligible Family Member and Veterans Hiring Preference
P. Education
Q. License, Skills, Training, Membership, & Recognition
R. Language Skills
S. Work Experience
T. References

DEFINITIONS

1. **Eligible Family Member (EFM):** An individual related to a U.S. Government employee in one of the following ways:

- Spouse or same-sex domestic partner (as defined in 3 FAM 1610);
- Child, who is unmarried and under 21 years of age or, regardless of age, is incapable of self-support. The term shall include, in addition to natural offspring, stepchildren and adopted children and those under legal guardianship of the employee or the spouse when such children are expected to be under such legal guardianship until they reach 21 years of age and when dependent upon and normally residing with the guardian;
- Parent (including stepparents and legally adoptive parents) of the employee or of the spouse, when such parent is at least 51 percent dependent on the employee for support;
- Sister or brother (including stepsisters and stepbrothers, or adoptive sisters or brothers) of the employee, or of the spouse, when such sibling is at least 51 percent dependent on the employee for support, unmarried, and under 21 years of age, or regardless of age, incapable of self-support.

2. **U.S. Citizen Eligible Family Member (USEFM):** For purposes of receiving a preference in hiring for a qualified position, an EFM who meets the following criteria:

- U.S. Citizen; and,
- EFM (see above) at least 18 years old; and,
- Listed on the travel orders of a direct-hire Foreign, Civil, or uniformed service member assigned to or stationed abroad with a USG agency that is under COM authority, or at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan; and either:

    1. Resides at the sponsoring employee's or uniformed service member's post of assignment abroad or at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan; or
    2. Resides at an Involuntary Separate Maintenance Allowance (ISMA) location authorized under 3 FAM 3232.2.

3. **Appointment Eligible Family Member (AEFM):** EFM (see above) eligible for a Family Member Appointment for purposes of Mission employment:

- Is a U.S. citizen; and
- Spouse or same-sex domestic partner (as defined in 3 FAM 1610) or a child of the sponsoring employee who is unmarried and at least 18 years old; and
- Is listed on the travel orders or approved Form OF-126, Foreign Service

Residence and Dependency Report, of a sponsoring employee, i.e., a direct-hire Foreign Service, Civil Service, or uniformed service member who is permanently assigned to or stationed abroad at a U.S. mission, or at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), and who is under chief of mission authority; and

- Is residing at the sponsoring employee's post of assignment abroad or, as appropriate, office of the American Institute in Taiwan.
- Does not receive a Foreign Service or Civil Service annuity

4. **Member of Household (MOH):** An individual who accompanies a direct-hire Foreign, Civil, or uniformed service member permanently assigned or stationed at a U.S. Foreign Service post or establishment abroad, or at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan. An MOH is:

- Not an EFM; and,
- Not on the travel orders of the sponsoring employee; and,
- Has been officially declared by the sponsoring USG employee to the COM as part of his/her household.

A MOH is under COM authority and may include a parent, unmarried partner, other relative or adult child who falls outside the Department's current legal and statutory definition of family member. A MOH does not have to be a U.S. Citizen.

5. **Not Ordinarily Resident (NOR)** – An individual who:

- Is not a citizen of the host country; and,
- Does not ordinarily reside (OR, see below) in the host country; and,
- Is not subject to host country employment and tax laws; and,
- Has a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN).

NOR employees are compensated under a GS or FS salary schedule, not under the LCP.

6. **Ordinarily Resident (OR)** – A Foreign National or U.S. citizen who:

- Is locally resident; and,
- Has legal, permanent resident status within the host country; and,
- Is subject to host country employment and tax laws.

EFMs without U.S. Social Security Numbers are also OR. All OR employees, including U.S. citizens, are compensated in accordance with the Local Compensation Plan (LCP).

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: February 2, 2015

The U.S. Mission in Chennai provides equal opportunity and fair and equitable treatment in employment to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation, marital status, or sexual orientation. The Department of State also strives to achieve equal employment opportunity in all personnel operations through continuing diversity enhancement programs.

The EEO complaint procedure is not available to individuals who believe they have been denied equal opportunity based upon marital status or political affiliation. Individuals with such complaints should avail themselves of the appropriate grievance procedures, remedies for prohibited personnel practices, and/or courts for relief.

Approved: M: Marilyn Holleran
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