

U.S. Embassy Kabul
Human Resources Office
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: Political Specialist FSN-10
Announcement Number: 16-135

OPEN TO: All Interested Applicants / All Sources

The “Open To” category listed above refers to applicants who are eligible to apply for this position. The “Open To” category should not be confused with a “hiring preference” which is explained later in this vacancy announcement.

POSITION: Political Specialist FSN-10

OPENING DATE: November 6, 2016

CLOSING DATE: November 19, 2016

WORK HOURS: Full-time 40 hours/week

SALARY: Ordinarily Resident (OR): FSN-10
Not-Ordinarily Resident (NOR): FP-5 (steps 5 through 14)
*Final grade/step for NORs will be determined by Washington.

ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT (OR) APPLICANTS (See Appendix for definition) MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

The U.S. Mission in Kabul is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the position of Political Specialist with Political Section

NOTE: Due to the high volume of applications received, we will only contact applicants who are being considered. Thank you for your understanding.

BASIC FUNCTION OF POSITION

Serves as the senior LE Staff for the Political Section’s Provincial Team – one of two teams in the Section’s Internal Politics Unit – supervising a team of four (4) LE Staff. Responsible for stimulating and facilitating the flow of local political information from each of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces to consumers in the Section, the Embassy, and the Department, primarily by establishing and maintaining his/her own local contacts as well as contacts at all levels of government especially in the Independent Directorate of Local Governance, Parliament, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and the Ulema Council. Also responsible for assisting subordinates in creating and expanding their own contact networks. In cooperation with the American Provincial Team Leader, directs and guides the work of Provincial Team LES subordinates to collect and analyze the maximum possible information regarding domestic regional-, provincial-, and municipal-level politics, tribal and ethnic issues, and domestic(inter-provincial and inter-district) border issues, up to and including the delineation of voting districts/constituencies. Serves as the Embassy’s lead advisor/analyst for provincial politics, providing regular briefings – both orally and in writing – to the Ambassador, the DCM, the Political Counselor, Political officers, other Embassy officers, and visitors at every level. Schedules and attends meetings with contacts at every level for senior Washington visitors, the Embassy Front Office, the Political Counselor and political officers, interpreting as necessary. Supports high-level visitors and representational events. Undertakes other duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

Applicants must address required qualifications criteria listed below with specific information supporting each item. Failure to do so may result in a determination that the applicant is not qualified.

1. EDUCATION: University degree in law, political science, international relations, international law, history, journalism, public administration is required.

2. EXPERIENCE: Minimum of 5 years' experience working with the U.S or other diplomatic missions, the Afghan Parliament, the Afghan government, or NGOs dealing with the Afghan government required. Experience must include at least 3 years of daily interactions with mid- to high-level Afghan government officials, or with provincial/local leaders from all of Afghanistan's geographic regions.

3. LANGUAGE: Level 4 (fluent) English is required. Level 4 (fluent) Dari is required. Level 2 (limited) Pashto is required.

4. SKILLS AND ABILITIES: Must demonstrate an ability to establish and cultivate professional relationships with government officials and provincial leaders from all of Afghanistan's geographic regions. Excellent written and oral communication required for regular briefings and written reports on all aspects of provincial politics. Must be able to use multiple media and online sources for research. Interpret and translate fluidly between English and Dari. Use Microsoft Word, Outlook, and Sharepoint software to report and share information. Must have strong leadership and management skills.

5. JOB KNOWLEDGE: The incumbent must have an in-depth knowledge of provincial politics and the security situation in the major Afghan provinces – Kandahar, Helmand, Herat, Bamyán, Balkh, Kunduz, Panjshir, and Nangahar – and must be familiar with the general political and security situations in the rest of Afghanistan's provinces. He/She must also be familiar with U.S. policy, the U.S. policymaking process, and Department of State reporting procedures.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: The complete position description listing all of the duties and responsibilities may be obtained by contacting the Human Resources Office kabuljobs@state.gov.

HIRING PREFERENCE SELECTION PROCESS: Applicants in the following hiring preference categories are extended a hiring preference in the order listed below. Therefore, it is essential that these applicants accurately describe their status on the application. Failure to do so may result in a determination that the applicant is not eligible for a hiring preference.

HIRING PREFERENCE ORDER:

- (1) AEFM / USEFM who is a preference-eligible U.S. Veteran*
- (2) AEFM / USEFM
- (3) FS on LWOP**

*** IMPORTANT:** Applicants who claim status as a preference-eligible U.S. Veteran must submit a copy of the most recent Member Copy Four (4) of the DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, and, if applicable, a letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. If claiming conditional eligibility for U.S. Veterans' preference, applicants must submit proof of conditional eligibility. If the written documentation confirming eligibility is not received in the HR office by the closing date of the vacancy announcement, the U.S. Veterans' preference will not be considered in the application process. Mission HR's decision on eligibility for U.S. Veterans' preference after reviewing all required documentation is final.

** This level of preference applies to all Foreign Service employees on LWOP.

ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. Management may consider any of the following when determining successful candidacy: nepotism, conflicts of interest, budget, and residency status.
2. Current OR employees serving a probationary period are not eligible to apply. Current OR employees with an Overall Summary Rating of Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory on their most recent Employee Performance Report (EPR) are not eligible to apply.
3. Current NOR employees hired on a Family Member Appointment (FMA) or a Personal Service Agreement (PSA) are not eligible to apply within the first 90 calendar days of their employment, unless they have a When Actually Employed (WAE) work schedule.
4. The candidate must be able to obtain and hold the following: local security certification.

HOW TO APPLY: Applicants must submit the following documents to be considered. Failure to do so may result in a determination that the applicant is not qualified.

1. Universal Application for Employment (UAE) (Form DS-174), which is available on our website or by contacting Human Resources. (See “For Further Information” above);
2. Any additional documentation that supports or addresses the requirements listed above (e.g. transcripts, degrees, etc.)

WHERE TO APPLY:

Human Resources Office, U.S. Embassy Kabul

Applications should be submitted through e-mail to this address: kabuljobs@state.gov

Subject line must be: (Political Specialist VA 16-135) or your application may not be considered.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: The U.S. Mission 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.

Appendix (DEFINITIONS)

Eligible Family Member (EFM): An EFM for employment purposes is an individual who meets **all** of the following criteria:

- U.S. Citizen or not a U.S. Citizen; **and**
- Spouse or same-sex domestic partner (as defined in 3 FAM 1610); **or**

- Child, who is unmarried and under 21 years of age or, regardless of age, is incapable of self-support; **or**
- Parent (including stepparents and legally adoptive parents) of employee, spouse, or same-sex domestic partner, when such parent is at least 51 percent dependent on the employee for support; **or**
- Sister or brother (including stepsisters and stepbrothers, or adoptive sisters or brothers) of the employee, spouse, or same-sex domestic partner 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; **and**
- Listed on the travel orders or approved Form OF-126 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 or, as appropriate, at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan; **and**
- Is under chief of mission authority.

U.S. Citizen Eligible Family Member (USEFM): A USEFM for employment purposes is an individual who meets **all** of the following criteria:

- U.S. Citizen; **and**
- Spouse or same-sex domestic partner (as defined in 3 FAM 1610) of the sponsoring employee; **or**
- Child of the sponsoring employee who is unmarried and at least 18 years old; **and**
- Listed on the travel orders or approved Form OF-126 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 or, as appropriate, at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan; and resides at the sponsoring employee's post of assignment abroad, or as appropriate, at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan; and is under chief of mission authority; **or**
- resides at an Involuntary Separate Maintenance Allowance (ISMA) location authorized under 3 FAM 3232.2; **or**
- Currently receives a U.S. Government retirement annuity or pension from a career in the U.S. Foreign Service or Civil Service.

Appointment Eligible Family Member (AEFM): An AEFM for employment purposes is an individual who meets **all** of the following criteria:

- U.S. Citizen; **and**
 - Spouse or same-sex domestic partner (as defined in 3 FAM 1610) of the sponsoring employee; **or**
 - Child of the sponsoring employee who is unmarried and at least 18 years old; **and**
 - Listed on the travel orders or approved Form OF-126 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 or, as appropriate, at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT); **and**
 - Is under chief of mission authority; **and**
 - Is residing at the sponsoring employee's post of assignment abroad or, as appropriate, at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan; **and**
 - Does **NOT** currently receive a U.S. Government retirement annuity or pension from a career in the U.S. Foreign Service or Civil Service.
- **Member of Household (MOH):** An individual who accompanies or joins a sponsoring employee, i.e., sponsor is a direct hire employee under Chief of Mission authority, either 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. A MOH is an individual who meets the following criteria:

- (1) Not an EFM and therefore not on the travel orders or approved through form OF-126 Foreign Service Residence and Dependency Report of the sponsoring employee; and
- (2) Officially declared by the sponsoring U.S. Government employee to the Chief of Mission (COM) as part of his or her household and approved by the COM; and
- (3) Is a parent, grandparent, grandchild, unmarried partner, adult child, foreign born child in the process of being adopted, father, mother, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister who falls outside the Department's current definition of Eligible Family Member 14 FAM 511.3. A MOH may or may not be a U.S. Citizen.

Not Ordinarily Resident (NOR) – An individual who meets the following criteria:

- An EFM, USEFM or AEFM of a direct-hire Foreign Service, Civil Service, or uniformed service member permanently assigned or stationed abroad, or as appropriate, at an office of the American Institute in Taiwan; or
- Has diplomatic privileges and immunities; and
- Is eligible for compensation under the FS or GS salary schedule; and
- Has a U.S. Social Security Number (SSN); and
- Is not a citizen of the host country; and
- Does not ordinarily reside in the host country; and
- Is not subject to host country employment and tax laws.

Ordinarily Resident (OR) – An individual who meets the following criteria:

- A citizen of the host country; or
- A non-citizen of the host country (including a U.S. citizen or a third-country national) who is locally resident and has legal and/or permanent resident status within the host country and/or who is a holder of a non-diplomatic visa/work and/or residency permit; and/or
- Is subject to host country employment and tax laws.

DISTRIBUTION: All Section Heads, FSN Bulletin Board, UN Agencies, International NGOs,

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