

U.S. MISSION MOROCCO
Vacancy Announcement Number: 16-38
Information Specialist

OPEN TO: ALL INTERESTED CANDIDATES
POSITION: Information Specialist
OPENING DATE: Thursday, September 15, 2016
CLOSING DATE: Thursday, September 29, 2016
WORK HOURS: Full-time, 40 hours/week
SALARY: Ordinarily Resident (OR): FSN-10, DH 385,048 p.a.
(Annual Gross salary based on 40 hours/week including allowances, competitive bonus and benefits package. The U.S. Mission will withhold from employee's gross salary the employee's portion of the CNSS and CIMR contributions, health/life/disability insurance contributions as well as all tax obligations as imposed by the US and/or host country governments)

Not-Ordinarily Resident (NOR): FP-5, \$58,032 p.a. (Annual salary based on 40 hours/week)
Final grade/step for NORs will be determined by Washington

NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT (OR) APPLICANTS (see appendix A for definitions) MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

- - - - -

The U.S. Embassy in Rabat is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the position of Information Specialist in the Public Affairs Section (PAS).

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:

The Information Specialist for media and media programs supports the Information Officer (IO) and, through the IO, the Public Affairs Officer (PAO) with media programs and in-depth knowledge of all print, broadcast, and online media outlets, and serves as back-up for two other Information Specialists. Under the direct supervision of the IO and the PAO in the Public Affairs Section (PAS), the Information Specialist is responsible for planning, developing, implementing, and administering sophisticated media programs and strategies of the press unit, in cooperation with Moroccan partner institutions and in accordance with Mission strategic priorities and objectives. She/he supports high-level visits and U.S. policy initiatives, advises on media development programming, and provides information on NGOs and professional associations relevant to PAS activities. She/he maintains unsupervised, direct contact with senior government, academic, business, and trade officials and decision-makers, as well as with an extensive network of journalists, editors, and publishers, to obtain coverage of and for the U.S. Mission in accordance with Mission goals. She/he utilizes sophisticated knowledge of U.S. foreign policy priorities and the Mission's goals in monitoring the Moroccan press, making astute selections from media outlets to translate into English for media reaction reporting and identifying

relevant trends for in-depth analysis. She/he provides unofficial translations of news items, speeches, and press releases, when necessary.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

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

Education: A university degree in journalism, communications, or a related field is required.

Experience: At least five years of experience in media relations, journalism, advertising, or public relations, with practical and demonstrable understanding of print media production is required.

Language: Level IV (Fluency) speaking and writing in English, French, and Arabic is required. Native fluency in Moroccan Arabic and Modern Standard Arabic is required. Ability to translate written and spoken English into French and Arabic is required. Ability to translate written and spoken French and Arabic into grammatically accurate English is required.

Skills and Abilities:

- Highly developed interpersonal skills are required to establish effective working relationships with a variety of highest-level contacts in the Moroccan Government, partner and media organizations, using these contacts to further the objectives of the Mission. Must be able to negotiate on procedures and logistics between American and Moroccan parties involved in media events and activities.
- Must both monitor and write for the local media market and for USG audiences in a variety of forms, from press releases and social media posts to press guidance and draft questions and answers for interviews, using a range of technical and specialized vocabularies. Must be able to write and translate effectively in three languages.
- Computer skills are required. Must be able to monitor and engage over the Mission's social media platforms.
- Must be familiar with basic visual layout techniques and software. Must also have basic digital photography skills adequate to document Mission activities.

Job Knowledge:

- Thorough knowledge of U.S. society and its institutions is required, as well as the issues and concerns that affect all aspects of U.S.-Moroccan bilateral relations.
- Intimate working knowledge of Moroccan press and media organizations is required in order to advise on activities and attitudes of concern to the U.S., recommend most appropriate outlets for specific target audiences and subjects, and handle and/or facilitate informed, accurate, and favorable coverage of U.S. activities and interests by Moroccan media.
- Nuanced understanding of the Moroccan media landscape is required, to advise on media development and identify trends.
- Basic digital photography skills is required.
- Thorough understanding of the organizational and technical operations of Moroccan, regional/pan-Arab, and international media, allowing placements that effectively serve public diplomacy and Mission objectives, is required.
- Must be familiar with the most influential online news outlets and social media influencers, and be able to refresh that knowledge regularly.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: The complete position description listing all of the duties and responsibilities may be obtained on our website at http://morocco.usembassy.gov/job_opportunities.html and/or by contacting the Human Resources Office at 05 37 63 73 47.

HIRING PREFERENCE SELECTION PROCESS: When qualified, 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. Current Ordinarily Resident employees must serve in the same position for a period of 52 weeks before being eligible to apply for advertised positions. A waiver to this requirement by the employee and cleared by the American supervisor must be submitted to the Human Resources Officer for approval prior to applying for a position.
5. The candidate must be able to obtain and hold a **local security certification**.
6. Applicants are required to complete and sign the drug use statement regarding any prior drug usage before they can be considered for the vacant position. The responses to the drug use statement will be used to determine eligibility for DEA employment as a PSA contractor.

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 at the link below <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/136408.pdf> 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:

- a) **Mailing Address:** Human Resources Office
Attention: Vacancy Announcement 16-37
Address: Km 5.7, Avenue Mohammed VI, Souissi, Rabat 10170
- b) **E-mail Address:** RecruitmentRabat@state.gov

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.