Commission’s in-house science service
The European Commission is one of the main institutions of the European Union. It represents the interests of the EU as a whole. The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is the scientific service of the European Commission. It provides the scientific advice and technical know-how to support a wide range of EU policies.

JRC mission
As the Commission’s in-house science service, the Joint Research Centre’s mission is to provide EU policies with independent, evidence-based scientific and technical support throughout the whole policy cycle. Working in close cooperation with policy Directorates-General, the JRC addresses key societal challenges while stimulating innovation through developing new methods, tools and standards, and sharing its know-how with the Member States, the scientific community and international partners.

JRC in figures
- 2 800 personnel
- 7 scientific Institutes
- 5 sites in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain with headquarters in Brussels.
- Collaborates with over 1 000 European and international organisations worldwide
- Annual budget of more than €350 million from the EU’s Framework Programme for Research
- Produces more than 1 300 scientific publications every year

Activities and research facilities
The JRC work focuses on the following policy areas:
1. Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)
2. Internal market: growth, jobs and innovation
3. Agriculture and global food security
4. Low-carbon economy and resource efficiency
5. Public health, safety and security
6. Nuclear safety and security

With a wide range of laboratories and unique research facilities at its disposal, the JRC aims to be a centre of reference in its key competence areas.

JRC as a workplace
The JRC has an enriching and challenging working environment, both in the research and administrative fields. It offers unique research facilities, stimulating research activities, professional development opportunities, flexible working arrangements, and social and sports facilities to its staff. The JRC also offers daycare facilities and access to the European School on many of its sites.

Do you have what it takes to work for the JRC?
Do you have a passion for research, scientific experience and good language skills? Are you ready to work in a multicultural environment, at the cutting edge of scientific and technological developments, to support EU policy makers?

Then the JRC, with its headquarters located in Brussels (Belgium) and its research Institutes situated in Ispra (Italy), Karlsruhe (Germany), Petten (the Netherlands), Geel (Belgium) and Seville (Spain), might be the right place for you!

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Jobs at the JRC
A guide to working opportunities at the Joint Research Centre, the Commission’s in-house science service
Temporary posts

The JRC can recruit temporary members of staff using the following contractual possibilities:

Temporary agents

The selection of specialist temporary agents dealing with scientific/technical tasks is organised through open competitions by the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO).

Contract duration: Up to 6 years

Seconded National Experts (SNE)

Seconded National Experts (SNEs) are national or international civil servants who are working temporarily for the European Commission. The SNE remains in the service of their national employer throughout the period of secondment. The SNE’s employer will therefore continue to pay their salary and maintain their administrative status throughout the period of secondment.

SNEs must come from a national, regional or local public administration or an IGO. An SNE must be a national of an EU or EFTA Member State or a country with which the Council has decided to open accession negotiations and which has concluded a specific agreement with the Commission on staff secondments. SNE vacancies are sent to national administrations by the Permanent Representations of the Member States to the EU.

Duration: Up to 4 years

Grantholders

Grantholder contracts are aimed at developing training, career development and mobility opportunities for researchers throughout their careers. The JRC offers such contracts (under the national employment law of the site where the JRC Institute is established) to scientists embarking on doctoral studies, to those early on in their career and to those with experience.

Grantholders are recruited through open calls published on the JRC’s External Staff Recruitment Application (ESRA).

Contract duration: From 3 months to 36 months

Trainees

The JRC traineeship scheme gives trainees an opportunity to acquire practical experience and knowledge in the JRC’s areas of activities. There are three types of traineeships:

- training related to the preparation of a thesis for a university degree,
- training after university education (or its equivalent,
- industrial placement.

Trainees are recruited through open calls published on the JRC’s External Staff Recruitment Application (ESRA).

Duration: From 3 months to 1 year

Permanent posts

The JRC can recruit permanent members of staff using the following contractual possibilities:

Permanent officials

The selection of permanent scientific and administrative staff for the European Commission is organised by the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) through open competitions.

Contract staff (function group I only)

The selection of contract staff dealing with manual and administrative support/service tasks is organised through open competitions by the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO). For function group I*, an indeterminate contract can be offered.


Permanent officials

The selection of permanent scientific and administrative staff for the European Commission is organised by the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) through open competitions.

Contract staff (function groups II-IV)

The selection of contract staff dealing with scientific and/or administrative tasks is organised through open competitions by the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO). For function groups II, III and IV*, a short-term contract up to a maximum of 3 years can be offered.

Contract duration: Up to 3 years

Temporary agents

The selection of specialist temporary agents dealing with scientific/technical tasks is organised through open competitions by the European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO).

Contract duration: Up to 6 years

Seconded National Experts (SNE)

Seconded National Experts (SNEs) are national or international civil servants who are working temporarily for the European Commission. The SNE remains in the service of their national employer throughout the period of secondment. The SNE’s employer will therefore continue to pay their salary and maintain their administrative status throughout the period of secondment.

SNEs must come from a national, regional or local public administration or an IGO. An SNE must be a national of an EU or EFTA Member State or a country with which the Council has decided to open accession negotiations and which has concluded a specific agreement with the Commission on staff secondments. SNE vacancies are sent to national administrations by the Permanent Representations of the Member States to the EU.

Duration: Up to 4 years

Grantholders

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Trainees are recruited through open calls published on the JRC’s External Staff Recruitment Application (ESRA).

Duration: From 3 months to 1 year

Links


JRC External Staff Recruitment Application (ESRA): http://recruitment.jrc.ec.europa.eu/