

TRAINEESHIP – ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Human Capital Services Unit



1. How can we apply for the EFSA traineeship in website?

To apply for the EFSA traineeship, candidates can visit the EFSA [career page](#) where the traineeship call is published annually. The call typically provides detailed information about the application process, eligibility criteria, required documents, and deadlines.

2. What documents will be required for the application process?

The application process for the EFSA Traineeship program does not require candidates to submit any specific documents beyond the standard application form. However, if selected for a traineeship placement, candidates will receive a Placement Offer along with a comprehensive list of documents required for final confirmation. This list typically includes proof of identity, academic qualifications, proof of medical insurance and any other relevant documentation necessary to finalise the traineeship placement.

3. When do the traineeship programme starts and how long does it take (does it have to be full 1 year)?

Successful candidates will receive a Traineeship offer, stating a starting date, a Unit they will be placed in, the duration of the traineeship up to 12 months and the list of documents to be submitted before the starting date. The starting date is always the first working day of the month. The candidate during the interview can express his/her preference for the starting date in case there are two or more intakes. Traineeships shall last a minimum of five (5) months and a maximum of twelve (12) months.

4. Where can we find more information about the units? I found a lot about scientific units, but not much information about management units.

For the purpose of the Traineeship application process, candidates have the opportunity to express preferences for specific areas of interest (up to 2 different areas) and to elaborate on that preference. We recommend selecting the areas that aligns most closely with your skills, interests, and career aspirations, as this will provide you with the best opportunity for a rewarding and fulfilling experience at EFSA.

5. I am on my fifth final year of university, and I just have my graduation date left which is planned for June, but all of the courses are already passed. Would I be eligible with a provisional certificate of the ECTS passed?

In order to apply you must have already obtained a university degree of at least 3 years by the closing date of application.

6. If you are already a professional, are you still eligible?

Yes, if you are already a professional, you are still eligible to apply for the EFSA Traineeship program. We welcome candidates from diverse backgrounds and career stages who are passionate about contributing to food safety and security in Europe.

7. I graduated in 2017 from Bachelor. I understood I can apply, is it right?

Yes, that's correct. As long as you have already obtained a university degree of at least 3 years by the closing date of the application, you are eligible to apply for the EFSA Traineeship program. We encourage you to submit your application if you meet this criterion.



8. I am a Sri Lankan student studying in Italy. I am still in my first year. Am I able to apply after my graduation next year? and is non-EU eligible to apply?

In order to apply you must have already obtained a university degree of at least 3 years by the closing date of application. The Traineeship call is open to both EU and non-EU candidates. Should they be selected, non-EU candidates will have to obtain a relevant VISA prior to the start of their traineeship at EFSA.

9. For Non-EU applicants, what type of visa is issued?

For Non-EU applicants, the type of visa issued depends on the requirements of the individual embassies/consulates in their respective countries. EFSA provides a dedicated letter, along with the placement offer, aimed at facilitating the liaison with the embassy/consulate during the visa application process. This letter is intended to support trainees in obtaining the necessary visa for their participation in the traineeship program.

10. I would like to know if during the traineeship the trainee is always post it in the same department.

During the traineeship, trainees are assigned to a specific unit within EFSA. However, EFSA encourages cross-functional collaboration and interaction among trainees and different departments. This allows trainees to gain exposure to various areas of the organisation and fosters a dynamic learning environment. While trainees will primarily work within their assigned unit, opportunities for collaboration and involvement in projects across different departments are available and encouraged.

11. I will graduate from my master in September. How can I indicate it in my application since I will not be graduated yet by the time of the application deadline?

If I have Bachelor degree but I'm still a master student prospectively to graduate before the starting date of the traineeship, is it allowed to apply or I have to be graduated?

As long as you have obtained a university degree of at least 3 years by the closing date of the application, you are eligible to apply. In your application, you can additionally mention your current master's program in the education section and indicate your expected graduation date.

12. Do EFSA has partnership programmes with third countries?

We work closely with partners and stakeholders across Europe and the world, sharing scientific expertise, data and knowledge. Food safety issues are often global issues. International trade, travel, migration and even climate change can impact food safety regulation at local, national and regional levels. EFSA has developed close working contacts with international organisations and food agencies in different parts of the world. Additional information available [HERE](#).

13. How come there is such a large gender difference? Do you actively recruit more women? Are there just fewer male applicants?

At EFSA, we are committed to providing equal opportunities to all candidates, regardless of gender. It's important to note that in previous traineeship calls, there has been a higher proportion of female applicants compared to male applicants. Our goal is to achieve a more balanced representation.



14. In case I will not be selected this year, can I reapply next year? Will this have an impact on the success of my application?

Yes, if you are not selected for the EFSA Traineeship program this year, you are welcome to reapply for the next call. However, it is important to note that you will need to submit a new application form for each application cycle. Reapplying in subsequent years will not have a negative impact on the success of your application and we encourage candidates to continue pursuing opportunities with EFSA.

15. Is accommodation cost covered?

Accommodation costs are not covered as part of the traineeship program. However, selected trainees will receive a monthly grant to support their living expenses during their traineeship period.

16. Is your grant Erasmus grant or is it something else?

EFSA's Traineeship grant is not an Erasmus grant. The amount of the basic grant is specified in the Traineeship call, providing financial support to trainees during their participation in the program.

17. Where is the trainee expected to reside during the traineeship?

All traineeship positions are based at the EFSA's seat in Parma.

18. Is it possible to work some months from another country?

Trainees are permitted to telework from their residence in Parma or from a location that allows them to commute to the office within 3 hours. While trainees are required to work from the office at least two days a week, they have the option to come to the office daily on a voluntary basis. Additionally, trainees are allowed to telework from abroad for up to 10 days.

19. What's the One Health Approach?

One Health is defined as an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of people, animals, and ecosystems. For additional information you may also refer to latest available [news in our website](#), in particular the [joint statement](#) published to express EFSA and its sister agencies (providing scientific advice on environment, public health and food safety) common commitment to support the One Health agenda in Europe EFSA have.

20. What is the senior management in EFSA?

EFSA is governed by a [Management Board](#) whose members are mandated to act in the public interest. The day-to-day operation of EFSA is the responsibility of the [Executive Director](#) and the [Management Team](#).

For any further specific or individual questions, candidates are encouraged to reach out to [AskEFSA](#).