

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DECISION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY  
ON THE TRAINEESHIP AND STUDY VISIT SCHEMES AT EFSA

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY,

Having regard to the Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of 28 January 2002 of the European Parliament and the Council laying down the general principles of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and laying down procedures in matters of food safety<sup>1</sup>, and in particular to Articles 26(2) (a) and (g) and Article 48 thereof, regarding the role of the Executive Director of the European Food Safety Authority<sup>2</sup>,

WHEREAS:

- (1) it is necessary to draw up rules to govern traineeship and study visit organized by EFSA.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**TITLE 1**  
**TRAINEESHIP SCHEME**

*Article 1*  
*General*

1. The traineeship scheme is mainly addressed to young university graduates, without excluding those who – in the framework of further professional education – have recently obtained a university diploma and are at the beginning of a new professional career.
2. The aims of the EFSA traineeship scheme are to:
  - provide an understanding and practical experience of the objectives of EFSA's role and work in the food safety area;
  - facilitate the entry into professional life of young university graduates;
  - promote the professional development of suitably qualified people in fields related to the work of EFSA;
  - create a pool of young people with first-hand experience of EFSA and its working methods, who will be better prepared to collaborate with EFSA in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> In the present Decision also referred to as "the Authority" or "EFSA".

### *Article 2 Eligibility*

1. Candidates are selected from nationals of the Member States of the European Union, from EEA EFTA<sup>3</sup> States and from countries benefiting from a pre-accession strategy<sup>4</sup>. However, a number of nationals of non-EU Member States are also accepted according to available resources.
2. Candidates must have completed the first cycle of a higher education course (university education) and obtained a full degree or its equivalent<sup>5</sup> by the closing date for applications.
3. Candidates must have the linguistic competence necessary to fully participate in the work of EFSA. As English is the working language of EFSA, applicants must have at least a B2 level working knowledge of this language.<sup>6</sup>
4. A Traineeship will not be offered to applicants who have already been an EFSA trainee, who have ever been employed by EFSA in any capacity, who have worked for EFSA as an interim staff or intra-muros expert for more than six weeks. Candidates should inform EFSA of any change in their situation that might occur at any stage of the application process.

### *Article 3 Status*

Admission to a traineeship shall not in any way imply that trainees are permanently or temporarily employed by EFSA. It shall not entail any right or priority with regard to appointment or recruitment by EFSA.

### *Article 4 Duration*

1. Traineeships shall last a minimum of five (5) months and a maximum of twelve (12) months. Training periods may not be repeated or extended beyond the maximum length or beyond the end of the traineeship period.
2. The traineeship finishes automatically at the end of the time period stated in the Placement Offer.

### *Article 5 Selection procedure*

1. EFSA selects trainees on the basis of the applications received with due regard to an appropriate balance of nationality and gender.

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<sup>3</sup> European Economic Area – European Free Trade Association: <http://www.efta.int/about-efta>.

<sup>4</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/policy/glossary/terms/preaccession-strategyen.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> For minimum national qualifications required by the legislation in the country where the diploma was obtained, see Annex I.

<sup>6</sup> B2 level as minimum level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. (CEFR): <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/resources/european-language-levels-cefr>.

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2. Successful candidates will typically have a background relating to the activities of EFSA. This includes also qualified candidates with an interest in any support function like business administration, legal, human resources and finance.
3. Candidates are requested to apply following the instructions in the Traineeship Call published on EFSA's website.
4. Applications submitted after the closing date will be rejected.
5. Eligibility screening is performed by the Human Capital Unit against the criteria referred to in Article 2 of this Decision.
6. Applications of the eligible candidates are screened on the basis of the information contained in the application form. Qualified candidates selected by EFSA units will be required to undergo a telephone or on-line interview.
7. The Appointing Authority will take the final decision on offering the traineeship on the basis of a proposal submitted by the EFSA unit hosting the trainee. This proposal shall specify the tasks to which the trainee will be assigned and the Adviser responsible during the traineeship.
8. The selected candidate will receive a Placement Offer stating the starting date and duration of the traineeship, a copy of this Decision and a list of documents he/she needs to provide, including:
  - copy of his/her identity card or passport;
  - degree submitted in the application;
  - proof of sickness insurance for the period of the traineeship;
  - sworn affidavit not older than six (6) months to the effect that he/she has no criminal record.
9. If an application is unsuccessful, the candidate may re-apply for a subsequent EFSA Traineeship Call.
10. The retention of files by EFSA respects Regulation (EC) No. 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data<sup>7</sup>.

### *Article 6 Required documents*

On the first working day in EFSA the trainee shall sign the Declaration concerning confidentiality, personal data protection and independence. He/she will be required also to provide the original documents referred to in Article 5, paragraph 8 of this Decision.

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<sup>7</sup> Official Journal of the European Communities, L8 of 12 January 2001. A detailed data protection statement is available on the EFSA Website.

*Article 7*  
*Rights and obligations of trainees*

1. Trainees are placed under the responsibility of an Adviser. Each Adviser may be responsible for no more than one (1) trainee during the same period. The Adviser must supervise, guide and closely follow the trainee in his/her work.
2. At the end of the traineeship, the trainee and his/her Adviser must submit their respective Evaluation Reports to the Human Capital Unit.
3. The Human Capital Unit will provide a traineeship certificate stating the length of the traineeship period and the Unit of assignment. Should the trainee wishes to have a qualitative assessment of his/her work by his/her Adviser or Head of Unit, he/she must present a request to the Adviser three (3) weeks before the end of the traineeship.
4. Trainees shall be required to comply with the instructions given by the manager of the Unit to which they are assigned. They shall also comply with the rules laid down in this Decision and with the internal rules governing the functioning of EFSA, in particular the rules concerning working conditions, security and safety, unless otherwise specified by those rules.
5. Trainees must maintain confidentiality about all facts and information which come to their knowledge during the traineeship. They must not in any manner whatsoever disclose to any unauthorized person any document or information not already made public.
6. Trainees must not in particular publish or have published, either on their own initiative or in collaboration with others, any document concerning the activities of EFSA and relating to confidential facts or information without written permission from the Executive Director. They must comply with these obligations even after completion of the traineeship<sup>8</sup>.
7. Trainees may participate in EFSA internal training which is in line with the objectives of the traineeship and which are relevant for the tasks to which they have been assigned. Trainees may also participate in Unit or Team events upon agreement of the Adviser and/or Line Manager.
8. Trainees must respect the same rules for contacts with the press as other EFSA staff and follow the instructions provided.

*Article 8*  
*Working hours*

1. Trainees shall respect the same working hours and official public holidays as EFSA staff. To this respect, they shall complete their time tracking on a monthly basis.
2. Trainees shall not be entitled to flexi leave.
3. Trainees may request occasional teleworking on an exceptional basis to their line managers. The latter shall in principle approve unless the teleworking adversely

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<sup>8</sup> For the time period equivalent to the length of the traineeship.

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affects the interest of the service. If occasional teleworking is granted, HUCAP shall be informed accordingly.

### *Article 9 Leaves*

1. Trainees are entitled to two (2) days leave per month. Leave is managed under the same conditions that apply to EFSA staff.
2. Trainees with academic obligations (university exams, master or PhD thesis) may request up to 5 days educational leave (or equal half days), subject to provision of official documentation from their university supporting their request.
3. Trainees are entitled up to 3 days (or equal half days) special leave for personal reasons (i.e. marriage of the official or of a child, birth of a child, serious illness or death of spouse/partner/brother/sister/relative in the ascending line/child).
4. Any days of leave without justification or without notification to the Adviser are automatically deducted from the trainee's leave entitlement. If the trainee has no leave entitlement, a deduction will be made from the trainee's grant.
5. The Executive Director retains the right to terminate the traineeship without further notice, if the trainee is absent for more than 5 working days without any notification or proper justification. Any overpayment of the grant is to be reimbursed to EFSA. In this case, the trainee will not be entitled to receive the travel allowance.

### *Article 10 Grants*

1. Trainees shall be awarded a monthly maintenance grant. The amount of the grant shall be decided by the Appointing Authority on a yearly basis, on the basis of budget availability. The amount of the basic grant shall be indicated in the traineeship call.
2. Upon presentation of the proper justification, to be assessed by the Head of the Human Capital Unit in consultation with the EFSA Medical Advisor, disabled trainees may receive a supplement up to a maximum of 50% of the amount of their grant.

### *Article 11 Travel expenses*

1. EFSA shall pay a travel allowance to compensate for the expenses incurred to travel from the place of residence to the seat of EFSA and vice versa at the beginning and at the end of the traineeship.
2. The trainee must complete minimum half of the traineeship period stated in the Placement Offer, in order to qualify for the travel allowance.
3. The reimbursement shall take place based on the table below: distance between the place of residence, as stated in the application form of the trainee, and EFSA.

<b>Distance between the place of origin and EFSA</b>	<b>Contribution for the one way trip in Euros</b>
0 to 200 Km	0
201 to 500 Km	75
501 to 1000 Km	125
1001 to 2000 Km	175
2001 to 3000 Km	225
Over 3001 Km	250

4. Distance means the distance (one way) between the two locations as calculated by the website [www.viamichelin.com](http://www.viamichelin.com) (from place of residence to EFSA) considering the recommended route.
5. The contribution shall cover the one way trip between the place of residence and EFSA. The place of residence is the one stated in the placement offer. No request of address change shall be granted once the placement offer has been sent.
6. Additional baggage shall be covered up to € 200 (two-hundred), on production of proof of the expenditure incurred. Baggage shall be considered as additional starting from the second additional item purchased.

*Article 12  
Missions*

The Head of the Unit to which the trainee is assigned may grant authorisation for a trainee to be sent on mission. In case of trainees directly assigned to a Department, this authorisation may be granted by the respective Head of Department. The authorisation to be sent on mission shall entitle the concerned trainees to reimbursement of mission expenses in accordance with EFSA rules.

*Article 13  
Sickness and accident insurance*

1. Trainees must provide proof that they are covered by a sickness insurance scheme for the entire duration of the traineeship at the Authority (for nationals of the EU Member States, this means the European Health Insurance Card or a document showing that the trainee is covered by private insurance).
2. During the traineeship, the trainee is personally insured against the risk of accidents according to the EFSA insurance policy.

*Article 14  
Tax arrangements*

1. Grants awarded to trainees are not subject to the special tax regulations applying to officials and other servants of the European Union.
2. Trainees are solely responsible for the payment of any taxes due on EFSA grants by virtue of the laws in force in the State concerned in which they are liable to pay

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income tax. The Human Capital Unit will provide a certificate for tax purposes at the end of the traineeship period. This certificate should state the amount of grant received and confirm that tax and social security payments have not been made.

*Article 15*  
*Interruption of traineeship and sanctions*

1. Under exceptional circumstances, at the written request of the trainee stating the relevant reasons, the Appointing Authority after consultation of the concerned manager and the Head of Human Capital Unit, may authorize an interruption of the traineeship for a given period. The grant is suspended and the trainee is not entitled to the reimbursement of any travel expenses during that period. The trainee may return to complete the unfinished part of the traineeship.
2. If a trainee wishes to terminate his/her traineeship earlier than the date specified in the Placement Offer, a written request must be submitted by the trainee to the Head of Human Capital Unit and to the concerned line manager for approval. This request, stating the relevant reasons, must be submitted at least three (3) weeks in advance of the new termination date foreseen. Where appropriate, the trainee shall reimburse the equivalent part of the grant to EFSA.
3. Termination of a traineeship without respecting a three weeks' notice period is subject to authorization of the Head of the Unit to which trainee has been assigned to. The official termination dates are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Where appropriate, the equivalent part of the grant must be reimbursed to EFSA.
4. If a trainee wishes to terminate his/her traineeship within the first 15 days of the traineeship, no grant will be given for the days he/she was present at EFSA. The trainee will not be eligible to the reimbursement of travel expenses.
5. The Authority reserves the right to terminate the traineeship at any time if the conduct or performance of the trainee does not prove satisfactory, if the trainee breaches his/her obligations under the rules laid down in this Decision, if the trainee has provided false statements or papers at the moment of application or during the traineeship period, if it becomes apparent that the trainee knowingly made wrongful declarations or if he/she does not comply with EFSA's rules concerning working conditions, security, safety and confidentiality.
6. In this case, the traineeship may be terminated by the Appointing Authority, following a justified request submitted by the concerned Head of Unit and approved by the Head of Human Capital Unit.
7. The trainee shall reimburse any overpayment of the grant to EFSA and shall not be entitled to receive any travel allowance.

## **TITLE 2 STUDY VISIT SCHEME**

### *Article 16 General*

1. EFSA offers the opportunity of undertaking a study visit to university graduates, university students and PhD candidates.
2. The objectives of a study visit in EFSA are:
  - to allow the beneficiaries to complete a concrete project (research or other project of interest of EFSA);
  - to allow the beneficiaries to get a quick and first-hand experience of EFSA.
3. The period of the study visit shall be defined in the study visit Placement Offer. The study visit may last a minimum of one (1) month and a maximum of six (6) months. A study visit can start at any time of the year, according to business needs.
4. In case of PhD candidates, the duration of the study visit may be up to twelve (12) months and can be extended for a total cumulative duration not exceeding twenty four (24) months.
5. The following Articles of this Decision shall apply by analogy to Study Visits: Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 2 and Articles 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15.

### *Article 17 Eligibility criteria*

1. University graduates must have completed the first cycle of a higher education course (university education) and obtained a full degree or its equivalent<sup>9</sup>. University students must prove they are registered and follow studies at university level.
2. PhD candidates must provide official documentation from their university including the name and title of the responsible professor of their PhD.

### *Article 18 Working hours*

On a case by case basis, study visitors may be granted ad-hoc working hours' differing from the rules in place for EFSA staff. Ad-hoc arrangements are subject to agreement between study visitor, the study visit Adviser and the Head of the Human Capital Unit, subject to authorisation of the Head of Unit to which the study visitor has been assigned to.

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<sup>9</sup> For minimum national qualifications required by the legislation in the country where the diploma was obtained, see Annex I.



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*Article 19*  
*Special grants*

The Appointing Authority may authorise a special grant for a study visitor, subject to budget availability. The amount of the grant will be clearly stated in the study visit Placement Offer. Article 14 of this Decision shall apply by analogy.

**TITLE 3**  
**ENTRY INTO FORCE**

These rules will enter into force on the day following the date of its adoption.

Done in Parma, 22/05/2017

Bernhard Url  
Executive Director

### Annex I

#### Examples of diplomas for which the level of education corresponds to that required for access to the traineeship

COUNTRY	UNIVERSITY LEVEL EDUCATION At least 3 years in length
BELGIUM FR	Bachelor
BELGIUM NL	Bachelor
ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA	Diplom o ukončení Bakalářského studia
DANMARK	Bachelorgrad
DEUTSCHLAND	Fachhochschulabschluss (6-7 Semester)
EESTI	Bakalaureusekraad (<160 ainepunkti)
ESPAÑA	Diplomado / Ingeniero Técnico
FRANCE	Licence
ΕΛΛΑΔΑ	Δίπλωμα Α.Ε.Ι. (πανεπιστήμιο, πολυτεχνείο, Τ.Ε.Ι. υποχρεωτικής τετραετούς φοίτησης)
IRELAND / EIRE	Bachelor's degree
ITALIA	Laurea - L (breve)
ΚΥΠΡΟΣ/	Πανεπιστημιακό δίπλωμα
LATVIJA	Bakalauradiploms (<160 kredīti)
LIETUVA	Bakalauras (<160 kreditas)
LUXEMBOURG	Diplôméd'Ingénieur technician
MAGYARORSZÁG	Főiskolai Oklevél
MALTA	Bachelor's degree
NEDERLAND	Bachelor
ÖSTERREICH	Fachhochschuldiplom (6-7 Semester)
POLSKA	Licencjat - Inżynier
PORTUGAL	Bacharelato
SLOVENIJA	Diploma o Pridobljeni Visoli Strokovni Izobrazbi
SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA	Diplom o ukončení Bakalářského štúdia
SUOMI / FINLAND	Kandidaatti/ Kandidatexamen Ammattikorkeakoulututkinto / Yrkeshögskoleexamen (min.120 opintoviikkoa ) studieveckor)