

UN Career Preparation Programme • Online + Macau

The dedicated pathway into a United Nations career — a postgraduate immersion for candidates preparing serious applications to the UN system

Entering the United Nations system is not like entering any other career. The application processes are distinctive, the competency frameworks are specific, the timelines are long, and the field is competitive at a scale that few candidates fully understand until they attempt it. Many capable applicants fail not because they lack the substance but because they lack strategic preparation.

The UN Career Preparation Programme · Online + Macau is designed for postgraduate candidates who are serious about pursuing a UN career and want structured, expert-led preparation before they begin applying. Delivered over three weeks — with an online preparation phase and a concentrated on-site immersion in Macau — the programme provides delegates with substantive engagement at the United Nations University Institute in Macau, direct instruction on UN recruitment mechanics, and structured practice on the writing, interview and competency-based assessment formats the UN actually uses.

This is a dedicated career-preparation track within the GYLDC portfolio — distinct from thematic immersion programmes. It focuses on outcomes: successful UN internships, Junior Professional Officer applications, Young Professionals Programme candidacies, and graduate-level positions across the UN specialised agencies.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE	
TRACK	UN Career Preparation Track
PRIMARY TIER	Postgraduate & Early Career
AVAILABLE FOR	All tiers (separate cohorts)
DURATION	3 weeks (online + on-site)
NEXT ITERATION	August 2027
LOCATION	Online + Macau
LANGUAGE	English
COHORT SIZE	20–30
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC



◎ WHAT PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCE

The programme runs over three weeks. Weeks one and two are online and cover: the architecture of the UN system, the specific mechanics of UN recruitment across agencies, the competency framework the UN actually assesses, and the written and interview formats used at each stage. Week three is on-site in Macau at the United Nations University Institute — providing delegates with direct engagement with a UN entity, structured mock interviews and assessment sessions, career-strategy consultations with UN specialists, and a defended career development plan reviewed by expert panellists.

◎ WHY GYLDC

Most UN career preparation is generic — a lecture series on "working at the UN" that provides orientation but not preparation. GYLDC's programme is structured for actual outcomes: at the conclusion, every delegate has a completed portfolio (CV, motivation letter, competency-based responses), practical experience of the interview format, a defended career plan, and an introduction to the GYLDC pipeline of internship and placement opportunities across UN agencies.

◎ WHO THIS IS FOR

This programme is designed for postgraduate candidates and early-career professionals who are seriously preparing to apply for UN system positions within the next twelve to twenty-four months. It is not an exploratory programme — delegates should already know that a UN career is what they want, and want structured expert preparation to significantly improve their odds of success.

◎ LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Developed a working knowledge of the architecture of the UN system — how agencies differ in mandate, culture and recruitment practice, and how to match personal strengths to specific agency portfolios.
- Completed the full application portfolio required for UN recruitment — CV in UN format (P11 or Inspira profile), motivation letter, and competency-based written responses reviewed by expert panellists.
- Practiced the UN interview format under expert observation — including the competency-based interview structure that the UN uses across all recruitment — and received structured feedback on performance.
- Produced and defended a personal Career Development Plan that identifies specific target agencies, target roles, application timeline and preparation milestones over the next twelve to twenty-four months.

◎ COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme develops six core competencies:

✓ **Leadership**	✓ **Decision-making**	✓ **Communication**
✓ **Self-presentation**	✓ **Collaboration**	✓ **Career Planning**

◎ CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

The programme unfolds in three sequenced phases across three weeks. The first two weeks are online, building substantive foundations and completing the initial application portfolio. The third week is on-site in Macau, converting preparation into practical assessment and career strategy. Every element of the programme feeds directly into the delegate's actual UN applications.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
Online Foundations (Week 1)	*Online Application Portfolio (Week 2)*	*On-Site Career Immersion (Macau, Week 3)*
Week 1 · online	**Week 2 · online**	**Week 3 · 7 days on-site · Macau**
▸ The UN system architecture — agencies, funds, programmes ▸ How UN recruitment actually works — process and timelines ▸ The UN competency framework — core and managerial ▸ Language requirements and the UN language framework ▸ CV, motivation letter and portfolio construction ▸ Delivered by former UN recruitment specialists and current staff	▸ P11 form and Inspira profile construction ▸ Competency-based written response practice ▸ Draft motivation letter — one-on-one expert review ▸ Career pathway identification — matching to target agencies ▸ Peer feedback and portfolio refinement ▸ Preparation for on-site immersion	▸ Engagement at the United Nations University Institute in Macau ▸ Structured mock interviews with expert observation ▸ Competency-based assessment practice ▸ Career-strategy consultations — individual and group ▸ Career Development Plan defence ▸ Introduction to GYLDC internship and placement pipeline

◎ SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

UNU Macau

United Nations University Institute in Macau

The programme's on-site institutional anchor; a UN entity dedicated to research and training. Delegates receive direct engagement with United Nations University specialists, providing both substantive expertise and legitimate UN entity contact time.

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UN Recruitment Specialists (Guest Faculty)

Former UN recruitment staff, current serving Human Resources specialists and Junior Professional Officer alumni deliver the programme's instruction on recruitment mechanics — sharing insights that are unavailable in any published UN guidance.

◎ SAMPLE SCHEDULE

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 1	**Arrival — Macau**	Arrival in Macau; check-in; welcome briefing and orientation; introduction to the United Nations University Institute; opening dinner.
Day 2	**United Nations University Institute**	Full-day engagement at the United Nations University Institute in Macau; introduction to the Institute's mandate and research portfolio; institutional context for UN career pathways.
Day 3	**Recruitment Mechanics**	Deep-dive sessions on UN recruitment across agencies; JPO panel with sitting Junior Professional Officers; individual portfolio review consultations.
Day 4	**Mock Interviews I**	Competency-based mock interview practice with expert observation; individual feedback sessions; peer observation and reflection; interview technique refinement.
Day 5	**Assessment & Strategy**	Written assessment simulation; group exercises replicating UN assessment centre formats; individual career strategy consultations.
Day 6	**Mock Interviews II**	Second round of mock interviews — final observation; complete review of interview performance; feedback integration; Career Development Plan drafting.
Day 7	**Defence & Closing**	Career Development Plan defence before expert panel; certification ceremony; GYLDC pipeline briefing on internship and placement opportunities; closing dinner.

◎ WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Formal Certification

Certificate of Completion co-signed by GYLDC and GSLDC, valid for academic and professional credit recognition — particularly relevant for UN application portfolios.

Complete UN Application Portfolio

Every delegate leaves with a completed P11 form or Inspira profile, motivation letter, and competency-based written response bank — reviewed and refined by expert faculty.

Career Development Plan

Every delegate leaves with a personal Career Development Plan — target agencies, target roles, application timeline and preparation milestones over 12–24 months.

Mock Interview Experience

Direct experience of the UN competency-based interview format under expert observation, with structured feedback that informs actual future application performance.