

Foreign Service Officers



Join Our
Talent Network

As America's lead foreign affairs agency, the U.S. Department of State is dedicated to protecting and strengthening America's interests abroad. America's foreign policy is designed to amplify the nation's voice and extend its reach to positively impact the daily lives of our citizens. We work to ensure that our country's diplomatic leadership enhances our economic, food, and energy security, and reflects American values. Learn more by joining our talent network at <https://doscareers.com/fso>.

With your diverse educational and cultural backgrounds and exceptional analytical skills, you can become part of America's foreign policy leadership, contributing your innovative ideas and global perspectives to support U.S. diplomacy worldwide.

As a U.S. citizen, you are America. And you can represent America to the world. All Foreign Service Officers enter by selecting one of five career tracks. All career tracks engage with host government officials, private sector leaders, civil society members, and international organization officials.

1. **Consular Officers** assist Americans overseas and manage visa operations.
 2. **Management Officers** provide the operations support platform for diplomacy.
 3. **Economic Officers** promote economic partnerships, free markets, and trade.
 4. **Public Diplomacy Officers** explain American values and policies.
 5. **Political Officers** analyze and report on political issues.
- All tracks build communication between the United States and the host country.
 - All officers have opportunities to serve in different types of positions over a career. We seek the same qualities for all career tracks and applicants are judged by the same skills criteria.
 - **The Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT) is offered in February, June, and October each year.** Prospects are eligible to take the test once per year.



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Becoming a Foreign Service Officer

- **Choose** a career track.
- **Submit Personal Narratives (PN) and Register** for the Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT).
- **Take the FSOT** (multiple choice questions and a timed writing exercise).
- Your candidacy moves to the Qualifications Evaluation Panel (QEP) where we evaluate your entire file: FSOT score, timed essay, PNs, and experiences shared when registering for the FSOT.
- QEP passers will be invited to schedule and take the Foreign Service Officer Assessment (FSOA).
- If you pass the FSOA, you must meet the minimum medical qualification standard and obtain a Security clearance.
- Once you meet these requirements, you will go through a Final Suitability Review.
- Once successfully reviewed for suitability, you will be placed on a hiring register. As new orientation classes are formed, those on the register are invited to join the Foreign Service.

Additional considerations after you are on the register: Veterans preference and foreign language proficiency.

The basis of the QEP is to evaluate the PNs based on the following six precepts or skills: Leadership, Interpersonal, Communication, Management, Intellectual, and Substantive. Learn more about the selection process at <https://doscareers.com/fsosp>.

All successful candidates will demonstrate the Dimensions that reflect the skills, abilities, and personal qualities deemed essential to the work of the Foreign Service.

These dimensions, along with additional information, can be found in the Assessment Study Guide for Foreign Service Officers: <https://doscareers.com/fsssg>.



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