



Economic Officer Career Development

At the initial stages of your career as an Economic Officer (years 1 - 4), you may:

- do an average of three years of consular work, testing your ability to work in a high-speed environment requiring maximum contact with the foreign public and host national colleagues
- work in the economic section of a U.S. embassy abroad, where you will be responsible for advancing U.S. interests on a broad portfolio of issues
- help U.S. businesses overcome barriers to exports and investment
- seek host government support to remove barriers to structural reform in the economy
- promote international cooperation on global environmental, science and technology issues
- seek stronger protection for U.S. companies' patents or trademarks
- verify that U.S. high-technology exports are being used appropriately
- organize and run a Congressional visit or accompany the Ambassador on a call to the host country leadership.

At the mid-career level (years 4 - 16), you may:

- work with other agencies to develop policies on World Bank loans, environmental treaties, or trade policy
- promote U.S. positions on multilateral negotiations in the World Trade Organization
- seek the support of host government officials on economic issues such as providing more economic assistance to developing countries
- negotiate mutual recognition agreements to ease structural barriers to trade, and other agreements and treaties
- organize or manage high level visits
- work in Washington in the Economic Bureau or as a Country Desk Officer, drawing on knowledge about every issue in the U.S. bilateral relationship with a country and knowing who in Washington can take the needed action to resolve a crisis or exploit a fleeting opportunity.

At the senior level (years 16 - 27), you may:

- serve as economic counselor, Deputy Chief of Mission, Consul General or Ambassador at a U.S. embassy abroad
- represent the U.S. at environmental conferences and meetings
- serve as a member of the "country team" and help the Ambassador develop the Mission Program Plan – confirming the United States' priority objectives for several years ahead, and strategy for achieving them
- lead Washington offices that conduct negotiations on multilateral or bilateral agreements, in areas such as aviation, international corruption, or telecommunications
- serve as Country Desk Director for a region of the world, or in other leadership positions throughout the Department including Deputy Assistant Secretary.