

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Special Agent



Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) Special Agents are sworn federal law enforcement officers and Diplomats who operate on a global platform to safeguard U.S. interests. Learn more at careers.state.gov and join our talent network at <https://doscareers.com/dssa> to be invited to webinars and receive updates on career opportunities.

REWARDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Secure** – Safeguard U.S. diplomatic missions in over 270 locations across the globe, protecting our U.S. diplomats, information, facilities, and diplomatic initiatives worldwide.
- **Protect** – Protect the U.S. Secretary of State, visiting foreign dignitaries, U.S. athletes and delegations at international sporting events and global summits such as the Olympics, Pan American Games, World Cup, and G7.
- **Investigate** – Secure U.S. borders through criminal investigation of transnational crimes involving passport and visa fraud such as international terrorism and human trafficking.
- **Lead** – Develop diverse skillsets leading a variety of international security programs with a direct impact on U.S. national security.
- **Advise** – Serve as the principal U.S. law enforcement and security advisor to the U.S. Ambassador.
- **Experience new cultures** – Live and work overseas, learn a foreign language, and embrace rapid professional and personal development. Serve your country as a DSS Special Agent moving between over 30 domestic offices and U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide.

UNIQUE BENEFITS

- **Education and training** – Opportunities to learn new skills, such as physical, technical, cyber, and protective security operations, risk management, criminal law and investigations, security program management, U.S. embassy operations, foreign languages, and unique opportunities for interagency liaison and post-graduate courses of study.
- **Generous federal benefits** – Federal retirement plan; paid annual, parental, and sick leave; life and health insurance; and opportunities for student loan repayment (connected with service in designated overseas postings).
- **Special pay and incentives related to law enforcement status and overseas assignments** – Including 25% Law Enforcement Availability Pay, locality, hardship, and/or danger pay, moving expenses, rest and recuperation leave, paid housing or a housing allowance, and paid education for dependent children (K-12).



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About
DSS Careers

The Diplomatic Security Service encourages applications from all academic and professional backgrounds. The DSS provides world-class training to help you excel in this dynamic global role. Prior law enforcement or military experience is not required.

Join Us! To apply as a DSS Special Agent, a candidate must be a U.S. citizen with at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college and be at least 20 years old when applying and 21 years old when appointed. The candidate must be appointed to the Foreign Service prior to the month in which a candidate reaches 37 years old (preference eligible veterans excepted). All candidates must have a valid U.S. driver's license, be available for worldwide assignments, and be prepared to carry a firearm and use it if necessary. Explore the full details of this exciting global opportunity at careers.state.gov and connect with a recruiter at DSScareers@state.gov.

STEPS TO BECOME A SPECIAL AGENT

Step 1: Apply – Candidates must read the vacancy announcement in its entirety and complete the application, including personal narratives and a statement of interest.

Step 2: Take the DSSAT – Candidates will register to take the Diplomatic Security Special Agent Test (DSSAT) at a time and location convenient to them. Pearson Vue has locations across the country and around the world.

Step 3: Qualifications Evaluation Panel – Candidates' application, education documents, and DSSAT scores will be reviewed by a Qualifications Evaluation Panel. Successful candidates are invited to the Foreign Service Specialist Assessment.

Step 4: Take the Foreign Service Specialist Assessment (FSSA) – The Assessment includes a timed, written test and a structured interview to determine a candidate's ability to demonstrate the Dimensions that are essential to the successful performance of Foreign Service work.

Step 5: Medical & Security – All candidates must meet the minimum medical qualification standard and the Diplomatic Security supplemental medical standard as well as receive a Top Secret security clearance.

Step 6: Suitability Review Panel – A Suitability Review Panel will review candidates' information to determine if they are suitable for a Foreign Service career.

Step 7: Physical Readiness Test – Candidates must pass a proctored physical readiness test.

Step 8: Register of Cleared Candidates – Candidates who have successfully passed all steps will be placed on the Register, which is a rank-ordered list of successful candidates.

Step 9: Schedule and take a proctored Physical Readiness Test.

Step 10: Register of Cleared Candidates – Candidates who received a conditional offer of employment and completed the previous stages will be placed on the Register. Each candidate will be ranked by their overall assessment scores, including language bonuses and veterans' preference points.



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