

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

# Security Engineering Officers & Security Technical Specialists



Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) Security Engineering Officers and Security Technical Specialists are trained to become highly skilled professionals who use electronic and mechanical security systems to protect U.S. Department of State facilities and personnel around the world from technical espionage, acts of terrorism, and other threats. Learn more at [careers.state.gov](https://careers.state.gov) and join our talent network at <https://joinus.careers.state.gov/>.

## REWARDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Secure, Protect, Defend

- **Advise and secure** – Provide technical support and safeguard sensitive information for the U.S. Secretary of State, visiting foreign dignitaries, and U.S. diplomatic facilities in the United States and abroad.
- **Employ technical expertise** – Operate as the subject matter expert for technical, physical, and cyber security.
- **Manage technical counterparts** – Coordinate daily operations with other Security Engineering Officers, Security Technical Specialists, local Regional Security Technicians, as well as assigned military personnel.
- **Explore new horizons** – Travel the globe. Serve in domestic offices as well as in U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide.
- **Experience new cultures** – Embrace professional and personal development from continually changing assignments while overseas.

## UNIQUE BENEFITS

- **Education and training** – Opportunities to learn new skills, such as technical security systems, project management, networking, cyber and information security, and U.S. embassy operations.
- **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 foreign postings).
- **Special pay and incentives related to technical certifications and overseas assignments** – Including locality, overseas hardship and/or danger pay, moving expenses, overseas rest and recuperation leave, housing or housing allowance provided overseas, and paid education for dependent children (K-12) overseas.



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**To apply as a Security Engineering Officer**, applicants must have a BS, MS, or PhD in Engineering, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, or Physics from a school with at least one program accredited by the **Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)**, or be within four consecutive semesters of completing their bachelor's degree. Alternatively, a candidate may show evidence of successfully passing the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination or any other written test required for professional registration as an Engineer Intern (EI), Engineer in Training (EIT), or licensure as a Professional Engineer (PE) in the United States or its territories.

**To apply as a Security Technical Specialist**, the candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent as well as at least two years of specialized experience that demonstrates the ability to troubleshoot and repair electronic, electrical, and/or electro-mechanical systems and equipment. Please see vacancy announcement to see how education may be substituted for experience.

## STEPS TO BECOMING A DSS SECURITY ENGINEERING OFFICER OR SECURITY TECHNICAL SPECIALIST:

**Steps 1 and 2:** Review the specific vacancy announcement. Apply by completing the online application with statement of interest and personal narratives.

**Step 3:** Schedule and take the Diplomatic Security Engineering Officer Test or Diplomatic Security Technical Specialist Test.

**Step 4 and 5:** Document Submission & Application Evaluation– Submit required transcripts and, if applicable, veterans' preference information. Once determined the candidate meets the initial Minimum Qualifications requirement, their application will go before the Qualifications Evaluation Panel (QEP). The QEP will evaluate their professional experience, job history, motivation, and accomplishment questionnaire in more detail.

**Step 6:** If invited to continue to the Assessment, take the Written Exam at a Pearson Vue testing center.

**Step 7:** Assessment – Attend a virtual structured interview to determine whether they demonstrate the dimensions that are essential to the successful performance of Foreign Service work.

**Step 8:** Medical & Security – All candidates must meet the minimum medical qualification standard and the Diplomatic Security supplemental medical standard as well as receive a security clearance to be hired and serve abroad.

**Step 9:** Suitability Review Panel – A Suitability Review Panel will review candidates' information to determine if they are suitable for a Foreign Service career.

**Step 10:** Register of Cleared Candidates – Candidates who receive 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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