

WORKING FOR USAID



The U.S. Agency for International Development’s workforce is made up of direct-hire and contract employees based in the U.S. and in field missions around the world. Here’s a step-by-step guide to landing one of these roles.

USAID
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1: KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

You should understand the different career opportunities with USAID. Its staffers fall under three main categories: civil service employees, foreign service officers, and foreign service nationals.

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2: CHOOSE A PATH

The civil service and foreign service offer two very different USAID career pathways. It’s important to know the distinguishable features between the two fields.

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3: IDENTIFY RELEVANT SKILLS

Whether you are interested in a career in foreign service or civil service, there are some key skills that USAID looks for.

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4: NETWORK WITH PROFESSIONALS

Part of your networking efforts should include learning from those who are current or former USAID employees. Read some advice from those who have worked for the agency.

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5: PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

Competition for USAID roles is tough. The agency’s chief of talent shares tips for finding relevant roles and standing out as an applicant.

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UNDERSTANDING USAID PROJECT ROLES

A USAID-funded project is typically made up of certain roles that the contracted organization will hire for. But how USAID classifies staffers includes specific rules around the pay and benefits.

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