

UNU Fellowships – Policy regarding HIV/AIDS

(23 March 2005)

Principles

The UN policy on HIV/AIDS is based on the principle of non-discrimination. It states that the only medical criterion for recruitment is fitness to work. HIV infection does not, in itself, constitute a lack of fitness to work.

In line with this policy, the only medical criterion for award of a UNU fellowship is fitness to undertake the proposed training. As HIV infection in itself does not constitute a lack of fitness, a candidate for a UNU fellowship should at no stage be required by the University to declare her or his HIV status.

Procedures

Fellowship application forms

In line with the above, there is no need to revise the medical statement that is an integral part of the UNU fellowship application.

Medical treatment/insurance coverage

During the fellowship period, AIDS will be treated as any other medical condition. UNU units and partner institutions should confirm that the medical insurance provided for fellows covers these costs, or make additional provisions if necessary. HIV testing with the specific and informed consent of the candidate may be required if AIDS is clinically suspected during the fellowship period.

Testing Requirements for Entry into Foreign Countries

Some countries where UNU training institutions are based require mandatory HIV/AIDS testing from foreign visitors upon arrival. This procedure (see attached list of countries that conduct mandatory screening) – is an infringement on the rights of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS and violates UN principles as stated above.

While UNU is not in a position to negotiate an abolishment of mandatory HIV/AIDS screening practices, the University can contribute to protecting the rights of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS by establishing procedures that ensure that fellows who have been selected for training in a country that conducts mandatory tests are aware of this fact and can make an informed choice of whether or not to embark on the fellowship.

- a. The University must inform fellows who have been selected for training at an institution in a country that conducts mandatory HIV/AIDS screening, or denies entry to persons carrying antiretroviral drugs, of this fact.
- b. In these cases, UNU will cover the cost for an HIV/AIDS test to be conducted in the fellow's home country before departure. The results of the test shall not be communicated to UNU. Rather, this procedure is intended to enable the fellow to decide whether or not to embark on the fellowship. The invoice for the test shall be submitted to the appropriate UNU unit or partner institution and will be reimbursed upon commencement of the fellowship.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Testing Requirements for Entry Into Foreign Countries¹

Country	Test required for
Australia	All applicants for permanent residence. Temporary applicants need to declare any illness / condition at time of interview. Any temporary applicant who is likely to come in contact with blood must be tested.
Bahrain	For all foreigners who are seeking work permits
Belarus	All persons staying longer than 3 months
Brunei	All persons applying for work permits
Bulgaria	All intending immigrants (and may be required for foreigners staying longer than 1 month for purpose of study or work)
Canada	Applicants for permanent resident visa and dependents, foreign nationals who plan to stay longer than 6 months, anyone claiming refugee protection, and those intending to work in an occupation which requires it.
Central African Republic	Anyone seeking residence, work and student permits must submit to a medical exam (which includes an HIV Test)
China, People's Republic of	Foreigners planning to stay for more than 6 months (testing is not required for entry or residency in Hong Kong or Macau)
Colombia	Anyone who is a carrier of HIV needs to present documentation identifying themselves as such
Comoros	Foreigners planning to work
Cuba	Anyone staying over 90 days, excluding diplomats
Cyprus	All foreigners working or studying are tested after entry
Dominican Republic	Foreigners planning to reside, study or work
Egypt	Foreigners applying for study, training or work permits (spouses of applicants are exempt)
Georgia	All foreigners staying longer than 1 month
Greece	Only persons arriving to work as legal prostitutes
Hungary	Anyone staying over 1 year, and all intending immigrants (some employers may require workers to be tested)
India	All students over 18, anyone between the ages of 18 and 70 with a visa valid for 1 year or more, and anyone extending a stay to a year or more, excluding accredited journalists and those working in foreign missions

¹ Based on US Department of State documentation. Information as of July 2004 and subject to change. Refer to http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1230.html for updated information.

Iraq	Since a new government is forming requirements Are still being determined
Israel	Government of Israel reserves the right to refuse entry to someone suspected of being HIV positive
Jordan	Anyone staying longer than 3 months
Kazakstan	All visitors staying more than 1 month must present a certificate of an HIV test within 10 days of their arrival
Korea, Republic of	Persons entering on an E-6 visa to be engaged in performance or entertainment activities at tourist hotels and entertainment places
Kyrgyzstan	All foreigners, excluding diplomat, staying more than 1 month
Latvia	Anyone seeking a residency permit
Lebanon	Those planning to reside or work (universities may require testing of foreign students)
Libya	Those seeking residency visas
Lithuania	Applicants for permanent residence permits
Malaysia	Foreigners seeking work permits as unskilled and semiskilled foreign laborers
Marshall Islands, Republic of the	Applicants for residence islands, and work permits
Mauritius	Foreigners planning to work or permanent residence (testing performed upon arrival)
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Anyone applying for a work permit needs to obtain a medical clearance, which may include an HIV test
Moldova	Anyone staying more than 3 months
Montserrat	University students and applicants for work and residency
Oman	Those applying for residency
Panama	Women intending to work in prostitution
Papua New Guinea	Applicants seeking work or residency visas and their dependents
Paraguay	Applicants seeking temporary or permanent residency status
Qatar	Applicants seeking residency; if positive they are deported
Russia	Applicants applying for visas valid more than 3 months
St. Vincent	Applicants seeking temporary and permanent residency visas
St. Kitts and Nevis	Students, intending immigrants and anyone seeking employment
Saudi Arabia	Applicants for residency /work permits
Seychelles	Foreigners planning to work must under go a medical exam, which includes an HIV test, upon arrival
Singapore	For all applicants for employment passes, work permits and permanent resident status (except spouses and children of Singapore citizens)
Slovakia	Applicants for long term or permanent residency visas

South Africa	All mine workers (irrespective of their positions)
Syria	All foreigners (ages 15 to 60 years) staying more than 15 days
Taiwan	Applicants for residency and work permits (testing is also required for anyone staying over 90 days)
Tajikistan	Anyone staying more than 90 days (pending legislation)
Turkey	Any foreigner immigrating or applying for permanent residence
Turkmenistan	All foreigners staying longer than 3 months
Ukraine	Anyone staying longer than 3 months
United Arab Emirates	Applicants for work or residence permits except those under age 18
United Kingdom	Anyone who does not appear to be in good health may be required to undergo a medical exam (including an HIV test) prior to being granted or denied entry
Uzbekistan	Anyone staying more than 15 days (long-term visitors must renew HIV certificate after the first 3 months in Uzbekistan and annually thereafter)
Yemen	Applicants seeking permanent residence including work or study (students over age 16), all foreigners staying longer than 1 month, and foreign spouses of Yemeni nationals (excludes experts, teachers, and foreign missions who are required to work in Yemen)