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Security Engineers and Technicians

Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) Security Engineering Officers and Security Technical Specialist are highly skilled professionals who use electronic and mechanical security systems to protect Department of State facilities and personnel around the world from technical espionage, acts of terrorism, and other threats. Learn more at careers.state.gov and join our talent network at <https://bit.ly/3N90csj>.

As Security Engineering Officers and Security Technical Specialists in the Foreign Service, you will have rewarding opportunities to:

- **Explore new horizons** – Serve in domestic offices, as well as U.S. embassies and consulates, worldwide.
- **Support 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.
- **Experience new cultures** – Embrace continually changing assignments while living in culturally diverse environments worldwide.

As a member of the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service, Security Engineering Officers and Security Technical Specialists are eligible for:

- **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** – Including a \$10,000 per year student loan repayment program, federal retirement plan, paid annual, parental, and sick leave, and life and health insurance.
- **Special pay and incentives related to law enforcement status and overseas assignments** – Including 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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To apply as a **Security Engineering Officer**, a candidate must be a U.S. citizen and have a BS, MS, or PhD degree in Engineering, Physics, Cybersecurity or Computer Science from a school with at least one program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). Alternatively, a candidate may show evidence of successfully passing the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination or any other written test required for professional registration, or current 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.

Steps to becoming a DSS Security Engineering Officer and Security Technical Specialist

Step 1: Apply – Refer to the specific vacancy announcement and complete its entire process. This step will include drafting a statement of interest and answering the accomplishments questionnaire.

Step 2: Qualifications Evaluation Panel – Once the candidate completes the initial review stage, their application will go before the Qualifications Evaluation Panel (QEP). If they meet the minimum qualifications, the QEP will evaluate their professional experience, job history, and motivation in more detail.

Step 3: Take the Foreign Service Specialist Oral Assessment – Candidates advanced through the qualification process will engage in an oral assessment test that consists of a technical skill test, a writing exercise and a structured interview to determine whether they demonstrate the 12 Dimensions that are essential to the successful performance of Foreign Service work.

Step 4: Clearances – Medical & Security – All candidates must receive medical and security clearances to be hired and serve abroad.

Step 5: Suitability Review Panel – Candidates' information will go before a Suitability Review Panel to determine if they are suitable for a Foreign Service career.

Step 6: 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/veterans' preference points.

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