



## **Rules on the EFTA Court Traineeship Programme**

**Adopted by the Court on 20 May 2008**

Whereas the EFTA Court has, over the past years, offered stipends for up to 8 traineeship posts annually and will continue to offer these stipends, provided there are sufficient financial resources;

Whereas the objective of the traineeship programme is to give young professionals or advanced students at the final stages of their university education the opportunity to work with EEA Law within the framework of an European Court;

Whereas the nationals of EEA/EFTA States have limited opportunities to access any Communities' traineeship programmes and should therefore be given preference with regard to the selection of candidates;

Whereas it is preferable that the procedure for the application, as well as the criteria for the selection and recruitment, is laid down in clear and accessible set of rules;

Adopts the following rules:

### **Article 1**

#### *Traineeship Periods and Application Deadlines*

The traineeship will be for a duration of 2–4 months depending on the needs of the Court and the wishes of the successful candidate.

Subject to decision of the Court, traineeship will, as a rule, be offered within two periods:

**From 15 January to 15 April (usual deadline for applications: 15 November)**



From **15 September to 15 December** (usual deadline for applications: **15 July**)

A successful candidate will be appointed to a judge's cabinet or to the Registry of the Court. The Cabinet/Registry will be responsible for supervising the trainee and providing him/her with assignments.

## Article 2 *Applications*

Applicants are requested to send a curriculum vitae and transcripts of their full university record (including exam results) to the EFTA Court. Applicants should indicate their nationality and their language skills.

In their applications, applicants may specify whether they primarily are interested in being assigned to one of the cabinets or to the Registry.

Applications are received electronically at [trainees@eftacourt.int](mailto:trainees@eftacourt.int).

## Article 3 *Selection procedure*

When selecting trainees the Court will have regard to the following factors:

- **Educational background and professional experience**  
Applicants should either have a law degree or be in the final stages of completing a master's degree in law. Specialisation in EU/EEA law is an asset. Applicants with a non-legal background may exceptionally be considered.
- **Language skills**  
Fluency in written and spoken English (the working language of the Court) is a prerequisite. Good working knowledge of the following languages is an asset: French, German, Icelandic and Norwegian.
- **Nationality**  
Preference may be given to candidates from the EEA/EFTA states, i.e. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

## Article 4 *Financial compensation and other conditions*

Trainees will receive a monthly stipend to be decided by the Court.\*

The Court will pay for trainees' travel costs between their home station and Luxembourg, provided travel is by the most direct and economic route.

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\* For the year 2009, the stipend is 2000 Eur.



Trainees are not eligible for any allowances or benefits under the EFTA Court Staff Regulations (trainees pay, *inter alia*, for their housing). The Court may, nevertheless, cover travel costs for duly notified and authorized travels (in particular to certain seminars) according to guidelines set forth by the Registry.\*\*

Trainees are required to have a medical insurance coverage during their period of traineeship.

#### Article 5 *Obligations*

The Court's Staff Regulations and Rules apply to trainees with regard to their hours of work, sick leave and other work related obligations. In particular, trainees shall not communicate to any person information known by reason of his/her traineeship, nor shall the trainee use such information for his/her private advantage. These obligations shall continue to be binding on the trainee after the termination of the traineeship.

#### Article 6 *Entry into force*

These rules are to enter into force 1 September 2008. They shall, however, apply to all applications for traineeship for autumn 2008.

On behalf of the EFTA Court,

Carl Baudenbacher, President

Skuli Magnusson, Registrar

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\*\* The Registry has set forth the following criteria for participation in EFTA-seminars in Brussels: The Court will only cover stay for one night (when staying overnight is necessary) and not more than 40% of the DSA rate for Belgium. A travel notification is required.