

## Background

The ESEP is a reciprocal, but not one-for-one, exchange program to promote international cooperation in military research, development, test, and evaluation through the exchange of government military and civilian engineers and scientists. The ESEP provides on-site working assignments for U.S. government personnel in partner nation Defense activities as well as on-site working assignments for partner Defense personnel in U.S. Defense activities.

The Office of Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (A&S) is the executive agent for the ESEP and has delegated managing authority to the international program organizations of the Air Force, Army, and Navy. The Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs, Policy and Programs Directorate, Armaments Cooperation Division (SAF/IAPC) is the managing agent for the U.S. Air Force (USAF) ESEP Program. The Air Force Research Lab (AFRL), International Affairs Directorate (XPPI) administers the day-to-day functions of the ESEP.

## Program Participation

The ESEP Call for Applications is sent once a year via the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC). AFPC sends a message to all civilian and military engineers and scientists across the USAF with program information, requirements, and application submission suspense dates. The ESEP application package is located on MyPers as well as the ESEP site on the Common Access Card (CAC) enabled Air Force Portal.



### **ESEP Point of Contact**

**Ms. Vicky R. Rahamatali**  
**Phone: (202) 404-3900; DSN 754-7500**  
[victoriana.r.rahamatali.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:victoriana.r.rahamatali.ctr@mail.mil)

### **ESEP Alternate Point of Contact**

**Ms. Jackie Sukup**  
**Phone: (937) 656-9818; DSN 986-9818**  
[jackie.p.sukup.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jackie.p.sukup.civ@mail.mil)

# The USAF Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program (ESEP)



*Office of the Deputy Under Secretary  
of the Air Force, International Affairs  
Policy and Programs Directorate  
Armaments Cooperation Division*

## Program Requirements and Selection Criteria:

### Key Requirements:

- A complete master's and/or doctorate degree in a science or engineering field
- Commander's memo releasing member to participate; acknowledges billet will remain on Unit Manning Document for duration of assignment
- Minimum score of 100 on DLAB
- Candidate must be a full time government civilian or active duty military member
- Participant and accompanying dependents must be medically cleared to travel

### Selection Criteria:

- 2 years time on station, no more than 8 years
- Civilian Grades GS12 – 13; DR -02 or Military 1Lt – Maj
- Minimum of 3 years R&D experience
- Language proficiency/ability to learn a new language
- Commander's / Director's endorsement
- Air Force benefit and technology focus

Each completed application is reviewed by a selection panel at the Headquarters Air Force in Washington, D.C. Selection panel members include, but are not limited to, SAF/IAPC, SAF/AQ, AFOSR, AFRL, EOARD and additional agencies as available. Each applicant is scored then ranked accordingly. The number of participants selected is dependent upon available funding. Selected participants are assigned a country of placement based on the preference list within their application, current pol-mil activity, the research and development capability/relationship with the U.S., and the participant's scientific and engineering background.

Upon selection notification, each participant is required to send SAF/IAPC a memorandum confirming their acceptance of a placement in the assigned country. After receipt of this memorandum, SAF/IAPC coordinates directly with the Ministry of Defense in the foreign country seeking a position within one of their government research labs or facilities. The resume and career broadening objectives of each participant are provided to the foreign nation to support an appropriate placement.

### Language Training:

ESEP participants assigned to a non-English speaking country are authorized to attend language training. Language training is provided by the Defense Language Institute East (DLI-East) located in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan vicinity, specifically Alexandria, Virginia. Courses are either one-on-one or in groups less than five (5). The course curriculum is decided upon by DLI and prepares each student to speak conversationally in the assigned foreign language. Course materials are provided by DLI. Language training is essential to the ESEP participant's assignment due the level and nature of technical knowledge conveyed during her or his tour.

### Continuing Service Agreement:

There is a service commitment of 3 years after completion of the ESEP tour. Leaving the program before completion can result in a monetary pay back to the Air Force. This will include the costs for overseas move and language training (if applicable).

## 16 Active Agreements and Potential Countries of Placement:

- Australia
- Canada
- Chile
- Czech Republic
- France
- Germany
- Israel
- Italy
- India (Coming soon)
- Japan
- Korea
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Spain
- Singapore
- United Kingdom
- Taiwan (Coming soon)

### Timeline

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| January 2021   | ESEP Call for Applications: AFPC message             |
| March 2021     | ESEP Civilian Call Closes                            |
| May 2021       | ESEP Military Call Closes                            |
| June 2021      | Applications due to the SAF/IAPC workflow            |
| July 2021      | ESEP Selection Board at HQ AF                        |
| October 2021   | Selection announcement made on MyPers                |
| Aug – Dec 2021 | Coord of participants' overseas placement            |
| Feb – Jun 2022 | Language training begins at DLI-East (if applicable) |
| July 2022      | PCS/TCS Overseas                                     |

### Moving Overseas:

The ESEP Program Office is within the Armaments Cooperation Division of SAF/IA (SAF/IAPC). You will be in contact with SAF/IAPC before, during, and after your application and selection process. The ESEP Program Manager is the lynchpin between your sending agency, host country, and military or government support. You will be required to write and submit bi-monthly reports to SAF/IAPC during your two-year overseas tour.