



## World Customs Organization

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Dear Director General,

I am pleased to inform you that the first part of the joint 81<sup>st</sup> – 84<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Programme<sup>1</sup> of the World Customs Organization (WCO), intended for Spanish-speaking Customs officers, will be held online from 17 May to 4 June 2021.

In view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat has decided to deliver the Fellowship Programme according to a blended learning approach (i.e. alternating virtual and face-to-face sessions), as presented below:

Component	Including	Dates	Delivery mode
Part 1 A)	- Introduction sessions - Presentations of WCO Directorates, Sub-directorates and units' activities - Research project, under the supervision of a WCO tutor	17 May – 4 June 2021  Duration : 3 weeks	Virtual delivery via the CLiKC! platform
Part 1 B)	- Roundtable with the Secretary General - Leadership and Management Development Workshop - National Presentations	<i>To be determined at a later stage</i>  Duration : 2 weeks	Face-to-face, at the WCO Headquarters
Part 2	Field Study Trip within the partner administration	<i>To be determined at a later stage</i>  Duration : 2 weeks	Face-to-face, at the hosting administration

The Fellowship Programme is an integral part of the WCO's Leadership and Management Development Programme. It aims to invest in middle managers with high potential and develop their abilities, skills and knowledge to ensure that they can actively participate in their **Administration's reform and modernization processes** and in on-going organizational development initiatives under the WCO Capacity Building programme.

In this regard, I kindly invite you to identify and nominate maximum 2 candidates who meet the following conditions:

- A thorough knowledge of one of the technical areas listed in the annex and the **capacity to articulate practical recommendations for your Administration's modernization initiatives in this field;**

<sup>1</sup> At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the WCO Secretariat had decided to postpone the 81<sup>st</sup> Fellowship programme, which was initially scheduled to start in May 2020.



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- **Proficiency in both written and spoken Spanish.** One of the selection criteria will involve a telephone conversation between the candidate and the WCO officer in charge of the Programme;
- **A mid-level manager having at least four years of service in Customs** and with the assessed potential for further advancement;
- **Maximum age 45 years** and in **good health**.

Preference will be given to the candidates who meet these criteria.

The selected candidates will be required to produce a research paper based on the analysis of their national situation and the inventory of the operational problems that their Administration faces, and to put forward recommendations to solve them. This research paper, which will be supervised by a specialized WCO tutor, shall then be presented to the Director General and may be used by WCO experts who carry out missions within the Administration.

The Secretariat will only be able to accept a limited number of candidates subject to the resources provided by the various donors for this Fellowship Programme. In this regard, you are asked to nominate not more than two candidates. In order to promote gender balance, if you are nominating two candidates, you are advised to nominate one female candidate and one male candidate.

The WCO Secretariat invites Member administrations to:

- Confirm whether the nominations presented for the 81<sup>st</sup> Fellowship Programme are maintained and
- Submit their nominations of new candidates for the 84<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Programme.

Please find appended hereto documents setting out the administrative provisions, as well as a summary of the objectives of this Programme and a Fellowship Programme nomination form (for the new nominations) to be **completed in Spanish** and returned by e-mail to the Capacity Building Directorate **no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2021** (no application will be accepted after that deadline).

Your candidate is also expected to send a draft proposal for his/her research paper, related to his/her study area, as mentioned in the nomination form (Item 10). **The candidate's application and the draft proposal must be supported by the Administration.** Please note that applications for the WCO Fellowship Programme proposing a research topic that was already developed by a previous Fellow selected from your Administration will not be considered for selection.

For further information, please have your staff contact Ms. Hélène Caux, the Programme Administrator (Tel.: +32 2 209 9236; E-mail: [helene.caux@wcoomd.org](mailto:helene.caux@wcoomd.org)).

Yours sincerely,

**Kunio Mikuriya**  
WCO Secretary General