

Traineeships 2025 Case-handling¹

Help build a more effective, accountable, transparent and ethical administration in the EU

The European Ombudsman is an independent and impartial body that works to promote good administration at EU level. The Ombudsman investigates complaints about maladministration by EU institutions and bodies, and also proactively looks into broader systemic issues.

Our guiding principles are accountability, transparency, and trust.

Equal opportunities

The European Ombudsman is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from anybody who meets the eligibility criteria and required qualifications. We will try to accommodate the needs of applicants with disabilities.

1. 2025 traineeships

We invite you to apply for a traineeship starting on **1 September 2025**. We offer paid traineeships of one year, subject to a positive assessment of the trainee's performance.

For the case-handling profile, the Ombudsman is offering up to five traineeships.

2. Eligibility criteria and required qualifications

Candidates should be nationals of a Member State of the European Union or of an accession/candidate country.

Candidates should not have benefitted, for more than eight consecutive weeks or two full months, from a previous paid traineeship or work contract in a European institution, body, agency, office, service, delegation, representation, including the office of a Member of the European Parliament or of a European political group.

They should have a thorough knowledge of one of the official languages of the EU and a very good knowledge of another. The main working language of the Ombudsman's Office is English and therefore a very good knowledge of English is required.

¹ Dealing with the complaints submitted to the Ombudsman; handling complaints that do not fall within the Ombudsman's authority or powers of investigation or that cannot be dealt with for other reasons (out-of-mandate complaints); replying to requests for information. For a detailed job description, see Section 4: Responsibilities and tasks.



Candidates applying for traineeships in our inquiries directorate should have a degree or diploma of at least 3 years in either law, political science², European studies, or European public administration.

3. Selection criteria

We value highly motivated recent graduates or young professionals in the above-mentioned areas, who are curious and eager learners and wish to contribute to the Ombudsman's mission. Collaborative work attitude and service-orientation are essential.

Candidates applying should have:

- very good understanding of the role of the European Ombudsman;
- very good understanding of the EU institutions and policies, as well as of EU administrative law;
- very good knowledge of English;
- knowledge of other official languages of the European Union (besides EN)³;
- analytical and research skills.

Although professional experience is not required, any relevant experience will be an asset.

4. Responsibilities and tasks

As a trainee in case handling, you will:

- Provide support in the investigation of complaints against EU institutions and bodies concerning issues relevant to EU administration, including research and drafting of decisions and preparatory notes;
- Monitor EU policy developments and carry out research relevant to the Ombudsman's activities;
- Reply to information requests from members of the public;
- Participate in meetings with EU institutions and bodies and draft minutes of meetings;
- Handle of "out-of-mandate" complaints;
- Provide practical support in meetings and other events organised by the Office.

5. Selection procedure

Applicants must submit their application in the online application system of the website of the European Ombudsman.

Applications should include the following documents:

- a completed online application form;
- an English language version of the applicant's curriculum vitae; and

² This does not cover social studies as for example social work.

³ Only knowledge of level B2 and above will be graded and may be tested during the interview.



- copies of the applicant's diplomas, degrees, or certificates (copies do not need to be certified or translated).

Candidates must reply in English to the three questions included in the on-line form aiming at evaluating candidates' motivation and interest in the traineeship.

The provision of information requested when applying online, and of the supporting documents, is obligatory. Incomplete applications will automatically be excluded from the registration system.

The initial phase of the selection process will involve assessing the qualifications, experience, and motivation of eligible applicants based on the information provided in their application, including their CV and their replies to the questions included in the on-line application form.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview either by a video-conference tool or, if that is not possible, on the phone.

In case a person with a disability is selected, the selected applicant will be provided, if needed, with reasonable accommodation at work (office space and equipment) to be able to carry out their tasks.

The Ombudsman's Office will inform applicants of their results at each step of the selection procedure. The selected candidates will be informed of the results during the first week of June 2025.

6. Place of work

Brussels or Strasbourg

7. Deadline for applications

You must submit your application through the online application system on the Ombudsman's website by **10 March 2025 (13:00 Brussels time)** at the very latest.

Please, avoid waiting until the last minute to send your application. Carefully read the rules and prepare the required scanned documents in advance, before starting the registration process.

For general information on traineeships, their aim, duration and monthly grants see the Decision of the European Ombudsman concerning traineeships.

<https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/document/en/3460>

For general information on the processing of your personal data see

<https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/document/en/109434>