

Vacancy Announcement

Secretariat of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC) Division

Title and Grade:	Intern, Energy Infrastructure Transformation and energy planning.
Duration of Appointment:	9 Months
Duty Station:	Bonn, Germany
Date for Entry on Duty:	As soon as possible

Background

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is an inter-governmental organisation headquartered in Abu Dhabi, mandated to promote the widespread and increased adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy in the pursuit of sustainable development, energy access, energy security and low-carbon economic growth and prosperity. IRENA's mission is to play a leading role in the ongoing transformation of the global energy systems as a centre of excellence for knowledge and innovation, a global voice of renewable energy, a network hub for all stakeholders and a source of advice and support for countries. At present, IRENA has 171 Members (170 States and the European Union) that acceded to its Statute.

IRENA Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC) located in Bonn, Germany is responsible for the provision of the means for an accelerated renewable energy technology uptake, considering national conditions of resource endowment, social and economic frameworks. In accordance with the IRENA Statute, activities in this field include analysis of renewable energy technology policies; dissemination of information and increased awareness; technologies and equipment overview and assessment of success-failure factors; improved pertinent knowledge and technology transfer, and joint RD&D and provision of information about the development and deployment of national and international technical standards in relation to renewable energy.

Within IITC, IRENA also supports international platforms on long-term energy planning. This includes the Global Network on Long-term Energy Scenarios (LTES), a peer-learning network for government scenario practitioners, and the Global Coalition for Energy Planning (GCEP), a voluntary coalition that works to strengthen national planning capacities and connect planning outputs with finance and investment.

Objectives of the Internship Assignment

This internship supports two connected streams of work: (i) energy infrastructure transformation, with a focus on electricity grids and the practical data needed for analysis; and (ii) basic support to IRENA's long-term energy planning platforms, including the Global Network on Long-term Energy Scenarios (LTES) and the Global Coalition for Energy Planning (GCEP). The intern will split time approximately evenly between these two streams.

On the infrastructure work, the internship supports the team focused on the technical challenges of the global energy transition. As countries rapidly increase their use of solar and wind power, their electricity grids—the physical networks of wires, towers, and substations—must be adapted to manage these new, variable sources of energy. On the Energy Planning work, the intern will provide support to the activities of the LTES Network and GCEP, with a focus on research assistance, information management, basic outreach support, and meeting preparation tasks, under the guidance of the team.

Particular Functions

- **Research on Grid Technologies and Policies:** Assist the team by gathering and compiling information on solutions for modernizing electricity grids. This includes researching technologies like energy storage and smart grids, as well as reviewing effective policies and grid regulations from different countries.
- **Data Collection for Power System Analysis:** Support the collection and organization of data related to national electricity systems. This includes information on power generation capacity, grid infrastructure, and electricity demand, which is essential for the team's analytical work.
- **Contribution to Technical Analysis:** Support the development of analyses and strategies that guide countries in upgrading their power grids. This involves helping to analyze technical challenges and assisting in the preparation of materials that outline steps for infrastructure development.
- **Support for Technical Advisory Materials:** Contribute to the preparation of technical reports, presentations, data dashboards, online materials, and policy briefs. This will include tasks such as creating charts and graphs to visualize data, conducting literature reviews for specific report sections, and helping to proofread and format documents. Where relevant, this may include basic inputs supporting LTES and GCEP activities (e.g., background notes and presentation materials).
- **Support to LTES and GCEP activities:** Provide basic research, information gathering, and organisational support to selected activities linked to long-term energy planning (e.g., preparation of brief background notes, support to meeting/webinar organisation, consolidation of inputs, and formatting of simple materials), under supervision.

Learning Areas

The intern will gain a comprehensive understanding of the critical role of infrastructure in the energy transition. They will be exposed to the technical and policy solutions for integrating high shares of renewable energy into power systems and will develop practical skills in technical research, data compilation, and analytical support within an international context. The internship offers valuable insights into how an intergovernmental organization provides evidence-based advice to its member countries.

Timeframe

The internship is for nine months.

Minimum Requirements

- Candidates must have completed an undergraduate degree and be enrolled in a Master's or doctorate programme at a recognized university at the time of application and for the duration of the internship. Recent graduates will also be included in the internship programme provided the start date of the internship is less than six months from completion of studies.
- Preference is given to candidates studying in fields such as Electrical Engineering (with a focus on Power Systems), Energy Systems Engineering, Renewable Energy Technology, energy policy, economics, or environmental science. A demonstrated interest in climate change and sustainable development is required, with a particular focus on the technical and policy challenges of modernizing energy infrastructure.
- Fluency in written and spoken English. Knowledge of other languages (French, Spanish, Arabic) is an asset.
- Competencies: Candidates should demonstrate solid teamwork, planning and organizing, professionalism and communications skills.
- Strong analytical, research, and writing skills.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a multicultural environment.
- Candidates should demonstrate a strong commitment to work, observe deadlines, prioritise competing priorities and achieve results.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite, particularly advanced functions in Excel, is required. Coding skills for data analysis (e.g., Python) would be a significant advantage.
- Candidates must be able to work in a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary environment.
- Candidates should indicate in their cover letter the period of availability.

Internship Conditions

Interns of IRENA are not considered to be staff members. The selected intern will work on a full-time basis at the IRENA premises in Bonn, Germany.

IRENA does not issue interns with visa. The conditions for application for this internship are:

- Intern is an international student studying in Germany and hence does not require to apply for a German visa and work permit.
- Intern is an international student studying outside of Germany but has a scholarship specifically recognised by the EU, e.g. Erasmus, and any others, hence is provided with a work permit automatically and a German visa following submission of all relevant documentation.

Application Procedure

IRENA wishes to encourage applications from female candidates.

Please note that only candidates under serious consideration will be contacted for an interview and will receive notice of the outcome of the selection process.