The Information Service of the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Offices to the United Nations Office at Geneva and has the honour to inform them that the Graduate Study Programme, which is organized annually by the Information Service, will take place this year at the Palais des Nations from 2 to 13 July 2012. The theme for the 50th Graduate Study Programme will be: “Opportunities and challenges in a world of 7 billion”.

The aim of the Programme is to provide an opportunity for an international group of outstanding postgraduate students to deepen their understanding of the principles, purposes and activities of the United Nations and its related agencies through first-hand observation and study.

Participation in the Graduate Study Programme is free of charge. However, participants will be responsible for their own travel costs, accommodation and related expenses as the United Nations is not in a position to offer any financial assistance. It is, therefore, hoped that appropriate educational institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations would provide financial assistance to the selected candidates.

A United Nations selection committee will choose about one hundred participants from candidates nominated by governmental authorities, universities or institutes of higher education. The closing date for the receipt of applications is Friday 2 March 2012.

Additional information may be obtained by sending an e-mail to gsp@unog.ch.

The Information Service would appreciate it if Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Offices would inform the competent authorities in their respective countries that the application form as well as the necessary information on the Programme is available on our website - www.unog.ch/gsp_en for English and www.unog.ch/gsp_fr for French.

The Information Service of the United Nations Office at Geneva wishes to avail itself of this opportunity to thank the Permanent Missions and Permanent Observer Offices for the interest they have demonstrated in this initiative.

Geneva, 13 January 2012