

CLASSIFICATION OF HARDSHIP LEVEL

Canadian missions abroad are classified according to hardship level. DFTAD's *Foreign Service Guide* assigns a hardship level of I to V to most missions by comparing local living conditions with those in Ottawa-Gatineau. Level "A" missions are classified as non-hardship locations. Hardship levels take into account three factors:

1. Physical environment (e.g. climate, pollution and noise);
2. Local conditions (e.g. transportation, hygiene, food, health risks and medical facilities); and
3. Personal security.

Although hardship levels are reviewed every three-to-four years at all missions, sudden changes in local conditions occasionally lead to more frequent adjustments, sometimes more than once in a single fiscal year.

When Canada-based staff arrive at an interim operation or new mission, a provisional hardship level is assigned based on those of neighbouring missions. A permanent hardship level is typically assigned within a year.

The duration of postings ranges from one to four years and is based on a number of factors, including hardship level.

FIGURE 31
Missions by Hardship Level, March 31, 2013

Level I	Level II	Level III	Level IV	Level V	Level A (Non-Hardship)	No Level Assigned*
Athens	Abu Dhabi	Ankara	Accra	Abidjan	Auckland	Acapulco
Budapest	Bandar Seri Begawan	Bangkok	Amman	Abuja	Barcelona	Ahmedabad
Hong Kong	Brasilia	Belgrade	Astana	Addis Ababa	Berlin	Belo Horizonte
Prague	Bridgetown	Bucharest	Bangalore*	Algiers	Bern	Cancun
Riga	Buenos Aires	Doha	Beijing	Bamako	Bratislava	Hyderabad
Seoul	Dubai	Havana	Beirut	Chandigarh	Brussels	Karachi
Singapore	Guadalajara	Istanbul	Bogota	Chongqing	Brussels EU	Kolkata
Vilnius	Panama City	Johannesburg	Cairo	Dhaka	Brussels NATO	Mazatlán
	San José	Kuala Lumpur	Caracas	Guatemala City	Canberra	Oaxaca
	Santiago	Kuwait City	Chennai	Islamabad	Copenhagen	Playa Del Carmen
	Warsaw	Kyiv	Colombo	Jakarta	Dublin	Porto Alegre
		Lima	Dakar	Kabul	Dusseldorf	Puerto Vallarta
		Managua	Damascus**	Khartoum	Geneva UN & CD	Punta Cana
		Manila	Dar es Salaam	Kinshasa	Geneva WTO	San José del Cabo
		Mexico City	Georgetown	Lagos	Helsinki	Tallinn
		Montevideo	Guangzhou	Ouagadougou	Holy See - Vatican	
		Port of Spain	Hanoi	Port-au-Prince	Kitakyushu*	

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