

call 1 888 877-7098 or visit www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/123go/menu-en.asp.

You will also find a wealth of information about other international opportunities at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/yji-jpi/links-en.asp, www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/123go/international-en.asp and www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/youth/menu-en.asp.

Evaluating Job Offers

If you are offered a job overseas, it is important to investigate it carefully before you accept. The more preparation and research you do in Canada, the more successful your employment abroad is likely to be.

Find out as much as you can about the organization or company that is offering you a job. Ask for references, visit its Web site and call your local Better Business Bureau (if the organization or company is Canadian) to get as much information as possible. Contact others who have worked for the organization or company, or ask to speak to someone currently employed there.

Examine the terms of your contract carefully or have it reviewed by a lawyer. Keep in mind that it is never a good idea to accept a job overseas

if the details are not going to be spelled out until your arrival.

Make sure that the financial and other conditions of the job offer are carefully detailed and that you fully understand them. For instance, you should know what currency your salary will be paid in and when you will be receiving your first paycheque. Having your salary paid in Canadian or U.S. dollars will prevent problems due to exchange rate fluctuations. If you will be paid in local currency, find out if the currency is convertible and, if not, whether there are restrictions on taking funds out of the country.

You should also be aware of the cost of living where you are going, since a good salary in Canada may not be sufficient there. For information, check the "Canadian foreign post indexes" published by Statistics Canada (www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/62-013-XIE/free.htm).

Before accepting any offer, verify the conditions to break your contract if things simply don't work out. To be on the safe side, plan ahead: establish an "emergency fund" or make prior arrangements with family or friends to assist you financially.