

them. The Canadian Embassy makes an effort to employ spouses as temporary employees in positions which come open with the embassy.

Opportunities are available in the teaching field, primarily in English in Argentine private schools. One can substitute teach with a valid teaching certificate in the English schools which are run on either the British or American models. There is also a French school. One can also give language lessons in English and French with Berlitz, the Alliance Francaise, or privately. One might also teach music privately. There may be opportunities for freelance translation and interpretation. The greater the fluency in Spanish, the better the chances are for finding employment in areas outside teaching.

The dollar equivalent of wages depends on the exchange rate but, in terms of purchasing power on the local economy, wages are much lower than in Canada.

BRAZIL

Even for spouses who are fluent in Portuguese and acquainted with local customs, working for a salary is virtually impossible in Brazil. In order to work on the open market, one requires a work permit which is not available to persons entering Brazil on a diplomatic visa. Most spouses have to accept private tutoring in English or French, or volunteer work in place of gainful employment.

Brasilia

Reciprocal Employment Agreement: Yes
Approximate number of spouses working as locally engaged staff: 0
Community Coordinator contract work exists: Yes
Registered Nurse position exists at the mission: Yes

Some spouses may find salaried work in teaching at the American or French schools or in teaching languages at other institutions. There are occasional opportunities for well-qualified people in any field to lecture at universities.

Work permits are not required for those working in embassies. Our own and other embassies sometimes need English or French-speaking local employees who must, however, be fluent in Portuguese. Occasionally there are part-time contract jobs such as post librarian, in addition to the nurse and Community Coordinator positions at the Embassy.

Doctors, nurses, and perhaps pharmacists can work as volunteers but cannot take paid employment. Some nurses have volunteered to assist colleagues and friends at deliveries and post-operatively, in order to supplement the limited nursing care given by the poorly-trained local nurses.

While the lack of employment opportunities is disappointing, many people have found great rewards in donating their skills. Some spouses play a vital role at orphanages in Brasilia, thus maintaining the high reputation of the Canadian spouses for voluntary service in that community.