
INTRODUCTION

Thousands of Canadians live and work abroad. The vast majority do so successfully and, for many, working overseas is an enriching experience. If you are planning to work abroad, there are many details that you will need to consider prior to departure. Preparation and careful planning will go a long way to ensure a safe and successful international work experience.

The goal of *Working Abroad: Unravelling the Maze* is to provide you with practical information to maximize the chances of a successful venture and to offer advice on what to do if things don't work out as planned. Read it before you go, and pack it in your luggage for future reference.

The Consular Affairs Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) is committed to providing effective and efficient services throughout the world to all Canadians. We understand how accidents, illness, legal problems, and linguistic and cultural differences are difficult to manage alone. If you encounter problems while working abroad, we are there

to assist you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through our network of more than 270 offices worldwide. You will find a list of these offices in the publication *Bon Voyage, But...* or on our Web site at www.voyage.gc.ca/alt/canoffices.asp.

BEFORE YOU GO

Finding Overseas Employment

A wide variety of international work opportunities exists around the world. If you are interested in finding overseas employment, where do you begin?

Whether you plan to find paid employment, pursue volunteer opportunities or explore new business ventures abroad, you first need to decide what you want to do and where you want to do it. You also need to seriously evaluate your job skills and decide whether you want to build on your previous work experience or do something altogether new. You will find Alan Cumyn's *What in the World Is Going On?* an excellent resource as you begin this process. The guide will help you assess your personal and professional goals, plan your job-hunting strategy and secure the overseas job you want.