

The general problems relating to employment in Switzerland apply to Geneva. Multinational companies based in Geneva are allotted a specific number of expatriate work permits; at present, these are being cut back.

Diplomatic missions and United Nations Agencies are exempted from the regulations governing the employment of foreigners. However, due to the financial restraints imposed in 1986 and expected to continue through at least until 1990, there is a hiring freeze in most agencies. Job opportunities are thus largely short-term contracts. The most promising areas are clerical, secretarial, translation and interpretation services.

There have been instances in which candidates, otherwise qualified for a position in an international agency, have been refused employment on grounds of potential conflict of interest--because of their spouse's position as a Canadian representative to that agency.

To work in Geneva, and for locally-engaged positions at the Mission, a working knowledge of French and English is very helpful.

TURKEY (Ankara)

Reciprocal Employment Agreement: No

Approximate number of spouses working as locally engaged staff: 0

Community Coordinator contract work exists: Yes

Registered Nurse position exists at the mission: No

Employment opportunities for spouses of Embassy personnel are scarce in Ankara. With the exception of certain occupations which are unlikely to be of interest to Canadians, there is no legal impediment to foreigners working in Turkey as long as a work permit is obtained before entry. Spouses of diplomatic personnel must, however, surrender their diplomatic immunity in order to qualify for employment in the Turkish labour force. Spouses of non-diplomatic Embassy personnel face a similar problem as they must surrender their special passports in order to obtain employment on the local labour market. In addition, income tax of 55% must be paid. These conditions constitute an effective obstacle to employment in the Turkish labour market.

Some spouses have found employment with the "study groups" (schools) of certain embassies; others have augmented their income by giving piano lessons. Older children have been able to pick up money babysitting.

The American pre-school, for children from two and a half to five years, employs diplomatic spouses and does not revoke the diplomatic passport. The hours are from 8 to 4 daily, except for weekends and holidays. Teaching experience is not necessary although consideration is given to those with previous experience.