

GABON (Libreville)

Reciprocal Employment Agreement: No
Approximate number of spouses working as locally engaged staff: 0
Community Coordinator contract work exists: No
Registered Nurse position exists at the mission: No

Unemployment has risen sharply in recent years and thus employment is difficult to find. A secretary earns between \$1200 and \$1600 per month at the current exchange rate.

A few diplomatic missions such as the French and American Embassies, and international organizations such as the EEC and the UN, can be considered potential employers. There are a few multinational banks, airline and oil companies. With luck, one might find full or part-time employment in the medical or educational sectors.

GHANA (Accra)

Reciprocal Employment Agreement: Yes
Approximate number of spouses working as locally engaged staff: 2
Community Coordinator contract work exists: Yes
Registered Nurse position exists at the mission: Yes

[Note: One should arrive in Ghana with at least 10 copies of testimonials--copies of degrees, employer's statements, etc.-- and up-to-date letters of reference. In addition, at least 40 "passport type photos" are required for various forms and visas.]

The High Commission will assist any spouse in obtaining employment and Canadian nationals have preference for High Commission openings. On the local market, Ghana has an interest in hiring its own citizens first.

There are openings in certain areas, particularly in the teaching and nursing professions, such as teaching all ages, child care, library work, and services in private clinics. Teachers are in great demand by the international schools. Other diplomatic missions tend to hire their own nationals first. One can also do private tutoring in English, piano, and dance.

Advertising for expatriate openings is by word of mouth. All companies are subject to quotas on the number of expatriates they may employ. Raising the quotas is very difficult if not impossible; the trend has been to reduce them. Even within their quotas, companies must apply to fill the vacancies and give evidence that the job could not be filled by a Ghanaian. Successful candidates are typically very highly qualified.

Applications must be made by the hiring company to the Immigration Quota office in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. For dependants of High Commission staff, whose visas do not permit them to work, clearance must also be obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a regular passport must be issued.