

will be receiving your first pay cheque. Keep in mind that it is never a good idea to accept a job overseas if the details are to be worked out on your arrival.

Understand the arrangements for your work visa. Although your employer may take on the responsibility of obtaining your work visa for you, it is up to you to ensure that all arrangements are legitimate and consistent with the requirements of the country concerned. Refer to the section entitled "What Documents Do You Need?" for details.

Avoid risky ventures. Always remain sceptical of overseas placement firms that operate solely by telephone or mail, and avoid companies that charge advance fees for placement. Women should be particularly wary of employment opportunities that offer quick and easy money for entertainment or hostess jobs. Many are thinly veiled prostitution rings.

Doing your homework before you leave Canada will significantly reduce the chances of things going wrong overseas. It is recommended that you establish an "emergency fund" or make prior arrangements with family or friends to assist you financially in the event that the job proves unacceptable or things simply

don't work out. You should have enough money to return home.

It is also wise to take with you extra copies of your résumé, degrees, diplomas and other certificates, and reference letters so that you have the option of pursuing other job opportunities while you are abroad. Find out, however, what the requirements are if you decide to change jobs or companies, as doing so may render your visa or work permit invalid. For more details, see the section entitled "Visa."

Learn About Your Destination

Take the time to learn about the political, cultural and economic environment of your destination. Some countries experience ongoing wars, insurgencies or sporadic unrest. Find out if your destination is known to be dangerous. Consult the Travel Report for the country you plan on working in before you go. These reports, published by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, give up-to-date information on security and political conditions, health issues and entry requirements for over 220 destinations. If you are planning to work in the United States or Mexico, you should also read the DFAIT booklets *Crossing the 49th* and *México: ¿Qué pasa?*