

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE (Abidjan)

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

There are few openings for paid employment. In theory, a work permit is required from the Ministry of Labour and, at present, there is no agreement between Ivory Coast and Canada for such permits. That means the schools, hospitals, government departments and other public services are definitely closed to Canadians. On the other hand, there is more flexibility in the private sector. "Local contracts" are awarded and the candidates are selected by the agencies or services.

Whatever your interests and aptitudes, let it be known that you are seeking employment since personal contact is the most effective way of finding an opening.

Most possibilities are in the secretarial field. Contact the embassies, the multinational corporations and travel agencies, especially in September and October when most people leave. Temporary replacements are required on a year-round basis. The French Mission for Permanent Cooperation has a bulletin board where secretarial jobs are regularly posted.

At present four of the Canadian spouses are working: three as secretaries at the Canadian Embassy, the American Embassy, and a travel agency; the fourth represents a firm of Canadian consultants.

It should not be difficult to obtain a teaching position in Abidjan. Leave your curriculum vitae with Mr. Maurel of the Association des écoles et collèges privés, which has offices in the administrative area of the Collège Mermoz. The greatest demand is for science teachers. The minimum requirement for this association is community college graduation.

To teach in the private primary schools in Ivory Coast, one must have the equivalent of at least grade 12. Experience is not compulsory. Teachers often resign just before school begins in September and October. One should contact the school principal directly at these times.

For social service, medicine, etc., the only openings are as volunteers. Contact the Catholic parishes and missions if you are interested in doing volunteer work. One need not be a Catholic. The missions are well-informed as to what is needed in areas such as literacy, dispensaries, social assistance for young mothers, etc.

Once in Abidjan you can contact CARITAS International which is located in private quarters above the Peyrissac hardware store in the Plateau. Volunteer workers prepare material for distribution to LDCs and dispensaries and make handicraft items to sell.