

experience or do something altogether new. You will find Jean-Marc Hachey's *The Canadian Guide to Working and Living Overseas* an excellent resource as you begin this process. The book will help you assess your personal and professional goals, plan your job-hunting strategy and secure the overseas job you want.

If you are unsure about the length of time you want to work abroad, you might consider looking for short-term projects, such as youth exchanges, internships, professional exchanges, work-and-learn programs or working holidays. A short-term placement may give you the experience and background you need to decide whether you want to work abroad for an extended period.

DFAIT Youth Initiatives

DFAIT co-ordinates two separate initiatives to assist young Canadians in securing employment abroad: the Youth International Internship Program (YIIP) and the International Youth Exchange Program (IYEP). The YIIP provides for paid internships with organizations operating in other countries. You can obtain further information by calling 1-800-559-2888 (in Canada) or (613) 944-2413 or by consulting the Internet (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/interns>). The IYEP provides a

wealth of information concerning opportunities in more than 60 programs in over 20 countries. For more details, call 1-800-267-8376 (in Canada) or (613) 992-6142, or consult DFAIT's Web site (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/123go>).

Evaluating Job Offers

If you are offered a job overseas by an organization or company, it is important that you investigate it carefully before you accept. The more preparation and research you do in Canada, the more successful your employment abroad is likely to be.

Find out as much as you can about the organization or company that is offering you a job. Ask for references, visit its Internet site and call your local Better Business Bureau (if the organization or company is Canadian) to get as much information as possible. Contact others who have worked for the organization or company, or ask to speak to someone currently employed there.

Examine the terms of your contract carefully or have it reviewed by a lawyer. Make sure that the financial and other conditions of the job offer are carefully detailed and that you fully understand them. For instance, you should know in what currency your salary will be paid and when you