

Potential Employers

Inter American Development Bank
American Embassy
Colegio Nueva Granada
Exprinter (Travel Agency)
Fundacion Santa Fee de Bogota (Centro Medico Losardes)
IDRC
UNICEF
Intercol
Banco Royal Colombiano
Hilton International Hotel

COSTA RICA (San Jose)

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

In general terms, it is very difficult for spouses to find employment in San Jose. Costa Rican enterprises can choose between many qualified local candidates while international organizations tend to hire from outside the country, or require a substantial lead time.

Legally, a work permit is required. Most employers, however, appear willing to overlook this because of the bureaucracy involved.

Very few spouses from any embassy, international mission or non-governmental organization are successful in finding employment. The only places known to regularly hire foreigners are the international schools which hire certified teachers and a small number of administrative staff. It may also be possible to find positions teaching English in one of the private universities although experience or formal training is likely to be required. Professionals such as nurses, doctors, lawyers, architects, journalists, etc., are required to be licensed locally in order to practise.

Most companies and schools pay a mid-range Costa Rican salary in colones. For a full-time job, the pay will be \$130 to \$200 per week. If one is working with a work permit, deductions will be made for the national health plan. A taxation agreement has been signed between Costa Rica and Canada which permits locally paid Canadians to choose to which country they will pay taxes.

The locally-engaged staff in the Embassy are very highly-qualified and therefore are likely to win most internal competitions in which spouses might be interested. At present, there are very few contracts for outside consultants with the Embassy.

Although finding paid employment is difficult, it is relatively easy to find or create volunteer work, especially in the social service sector.