

Introduction

About 1.5 million Canadians live and work abroad. The vast majority do so successfully and, for many, working overseas is an enriching experience. If you are planning to work abroad, there are many details that you will need to consider prior to departure. Preparation and careful planning will go a long way to ensure a safe and successful international work experience.

The goal of *Working Abroad: Unravelling the Maze* is to provide you with practical information to maximize the chances of a successful venture and to offer advice on what to do if things don't work out as planned. Read it before you go, and pack it in your luggage for future reference.

The Consular Affairs Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) is committed to providing effective and efficient services throughout

the world to all Canadians. We understand how accidents, illness, legal problems, and linguistic and cultural differences are difficult to manage alone. If you encounter problems while working abroad, we are there to assist you 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through our network of 271 offices worldwide. You will find a list of these offices in the publication *Bon Voyage, But...*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The "For More Information" section includes information on publications, resources and programs available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, as well as from other government departments and agencies mentioned throughout the text. It also includes suggestions for further recommended reading.

Before You Go

Finding Overseas Employment

A wide variety of international work opportunities exists around the world. If you are interested in finding overseas employment, where do you begin? Whether you plan to find paid employment,

pursue volunteer opportunities or explore new business ventures abroad, you first need to decide what you want to do and where you want to do it. You also need to seriously evaluate your job skills and decide whether you want to build on your previous work