

Many Peace Corps families hope that an overseas assignment will not preclude employment opportunities for spouses and children. Unfortunately, paid work overseas, particularly at a professional level, is not easily located. In many countries of the world there are linguistic, legal, and economic restrictions on employment of non-nationals. As a consequence only a portion of those who seek work overseas are able to find jobs compatible with their expectations. Many seek a compromise in volunteer or study activities related to career interests. If family members are interested in employment while overseas, the following suggestions may be helpful:

Prior to Departure

- Check with the Skills Bank Coordinator in the Community Liaison Office (CLO), State Department, for the resource file on employment regulations and job opportunities at post of assignment. File an up-to-date form on employment interests and background with the centralized Skills Bank.
- Write the Administrative Office (or Family Liaison Officer if there is one) at the post of assignment for information on employment relevant to your qualifications and give dates of availability. If a temporary job within the Mission is an objective, this should be stated. If a teaching job at the local American school is desired, contact should be made directly with the school.
- Consult the Overseas Briefing Center, Washington, D.C., for country specific information regarding international agencies, U.S. businesses, etc., for potential opportunities.
- Contact professional associations in the field of expertise for information on overseas job opportunities.
- Learn as much as possible about the language, culture, and history of the country to enhance employability. Inquire about training programs available at the Foreign Service Institute (FSI).
- Prepare a resume with copies, collect professional credentials, transcripts, letters of reference, work samples, etc., and hand carry these to post.

After Arrival at Post

- Check in with FLO Coordinator (if there is one) and join the Skills Bank at post for local job placement.
- If a job opportunity is located, secure approval from the Peace Corps Country Director to make certain no U.S. or host country laws would be violated and no damage done to U.S. interests.
- If paid employment is not possible, consider volunteer work related to long-term career interests. Such volunteer work can be certified by the Country Director for future job documentation. Another alternative may be study locally or study by correspondence.

Note for Teenagers

Some overseas U.S. Missions have inaugurated summer employment programs for teenaged dependents of U.S. Government employees. Consult the Administrative Officer at post for information about such programs. Also check with the Country Director regarding other organizations which may be available. If no programs are in operation, it may be possible to become involved in some community action program through the U.S. Mission or international community. Self-employment as a tutor, babysitter, lifeguard, music teacher, play group director, handyman, etc., may be possible, depending on the scarcity of such services. With an eye to future job hunting elsewhere, one should document paid and unpaid work and obtain letters of reference whenever possible.