

# Working outside the UK



## Questions To Ask Before Accepting A Job Overseas

The number of students and graduates seeking work abroad is growing. Some of these jobs or projects are organised by agencies and, in some cases, they ask you for a lot of money to arrange them. Do not assume that because they operate from a UK address or they produce impressive brochures that everything will run smoothly. Some agencies are good and some are less so. So before you commit yourself, sign anything or hand over cash, check them out.

Start by asking the following questions:

### **About travel ...**

What are the travel arrangements? 48 hours on a bus without a toilet?

If you have to return early, can you transfer your ticket?

### **About accommodation ...**

Do you have the address of where you will be staying?

Have you been given a clear idea of the standard of accommodation?

If you are staying with a local family, are they being paid? Why are they having you to stay?

How far are you from the nearest town?

How far are you from where you will work?

What about safety?

Are the streets safe after dark? Is it safe for a single woman/man? How volatile is the local political situation? (Contact the Foreign Office for the latest information.)

### **About the work ...**

What hours will you work and how much free time will you have?

If you expect to be paid, how much will you get and when? Weekly, monthly? In arrears?

If you're teaching, who will you be teaching, how many in a class and what age range? Will you be given any support materials or expected to take your own?

In some societies, women (including foreign visitors) have a subordinate role at work and at home. Could you cope with this?

### **About the Agency/Organisation ...**

What kind of insurance do they provide? Does it cover repatriation if you become ill? Does it cover personal injury? Have you seen a copy of the policy to check the cover?

Will there be an English-speaking representative of the organisation close by?

Will you be offered an induction or briefing course before you start work?

Will you receive adequate training for the work?

### **About the values of the organisation ...**

If you are paying, find out where the money goes. How much goes on travel, accommodation, administration? Is it good value for money?

Who is the organisation benefiting?

Are the interests of the local population being served?

Will your activities be welcomed by local people? If so, why?

If you receive too many vague or unsatisfactory answers to these questions, think twice about going. In the last analysis, it's your own choice but as in all transactions, let the buyer beware!

### **Three Golden Rules**

Get everything in writing.

Speak to someone (a student/graduate) who has worked for the organisation already.

If in doubt, ask the Careers Service if they have come across the organisation before.

(Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services)