



FLO

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Advocacy Programs Services

FAMILY MEMBER EMPLOYMENT

Washington, D.C. Resources for Foreign-Born Partners

Support Resources

The Family Liaison Office

The Family Liaison Office serves U.S. government direct-hire employees and their family members, including partners and Members of Household (MOH), who are serving, have served, or will be serving at our Missions overseas.

Our major areas of interest include:

- **Family Member Employment**
- **Education and Youth**
- **Crisis Management Services**
- **Unaccompanied Tours Support**
- **Transition**

FLO's webpage has details on each of these areas. <http://www.state.gov/m/dghr/flo/>

Foreign Born Spouses Network of AAFSW

The Associates of the American Foreign Service Worldwide (AAFSW), a private voluntary organization, has a special interest group for foreign-born spouses and partners, recognizing the contributions they make to the foreign affairs community and the special challenges they face when a move to the United States is not a move "home." The AAFSW Foreign Born Spouses Group is a close-knit group of members from far and wide, from various cultures and countries. It meets on the third Wednesday of each month - from January through December. All are welcome. Please see the AAFSW web site at <http://www.aafsw.org> for more details.

Career Development Resource Center

The Career Development Resource Center helps State Department family members with job seeking assistance. They have resources and counseling to help family members:

- learn successful job-search strategies including preparing resumes and Federal Applications, inter-viewing skills and networking.
- gather information to facilitate job search exploration.
- explore and evaluate skills, interests, values and preferred work situations, plan career steps and set reachable goals.

CDRC is located in SA-1, Columbia Plaza in Washington, DC. They can be reached at 202-663-3042 or CDRC@state.gov.

Job Seekers Network Group

Partners returning to the Washington, DC area who are looking for work may want to join the Jobseekers Network Group, facilitated by FLO. The Jobseekers group comes together about

every six weeks to share information, contacts and tips and to offer support to those seeking the perfect position. Contact FLO at FLOAskEmployment@state.gov to register for the next meeting.

The Network

This yahoo listserve managed by FLO advertises job opportunities at NGOs in the DC area and has announcements for the Job Seekers Networking Group and job fairs at FSI. Send an email to ripleyps@state.gov to get signed up.

Education Options

Classroom Learning

The Washington DC area is host to a large number of higher education institutions. This site lists universities and colleges in DC by neighborhood and by cities in the area: http://www.dexknows.com/local/education/colleges_and_universities/geo/c-washington-dc/

Several community colleges offer associates degrees and certificates in a field of study, but tuition is often less than a four-year college.

In Maryland

Montgomery County Community College
<http://www.mc3.edu/>

For other areas in MD see the listing by county in the directory on the Maryland Association of Community College page: <http://mdacc.org/>

In Virginia

Northern Virginia Community College
<http://www.nvcc.edu/index.html>

In DC

University of the District of Columbia Community College
<http://cc.udc.edu/>

On-line Learning

If you prefer **on-line classes**, the options are now endless. If you plan to use the credits to obtain a degree, consider schools that are in the U.S. and accredited. These schools charge a fee per credit.

Additionally, there are now also **many free university courses** available on-line as part of the new open-courseware movement. The content these providers supply comes from top universities, including the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#), the [University of California at Berkeley](#), [Tufts University](#) and the [University of Michigan](#).

The most popular are:

<http://www.uopeople.org/>
<http://p2pu.org/en/>
<http://www.saylor.org/>
<https://www.coursera.org/>

These groups are working on alternative credentials that “graduates” can take directly to employers instead of university degrees. Do your research before completing a degree through one of these organizations.

Finally, you can learn a new language through FSI’s distance learning opportunities including Rosetta or many other free on-line language resources available on the internet.

Volunteer

From an employment perspective, volunteering can provide an avenue for future work opportunities or help in making a career change, if one finds the right volunteer opportunity.

- When possible, use your volunteer opportunity to build new skills, as well as, use those you have already mastered.
- If the volunteer position is of value to future job prospects, consider listing meaningful volunteer accomplishments on your resume.
- Determine the amount and duration of time you are able to work, without pay, before committing to volunteer work with an organization.

<http://www.state.gov/m/fsi/tc/79986.htm> List of volunteer resources in the DC area
<http://www.idealists.org/> Volunteer opportunities in the DC area
<http://www.volunteermatch.org/> Volunteer opportunities in major cities in the U.S.