



ADVICE & TIPS – CYPRUS



The Cyprus government is heavily promoting the country's credentials as a location for both company regional headquarters and as a bridge between the European Union (EU) and the increasingly important markets of the Middle East. In addition to service industries such as banking and ship management, the government is hoping to attract graduates in high-tech areas such as IT, biotechnology and healthcare.

Although English is widely spoken on the island (by around 90% of the population), some employment areas are closed unless you speak fluent Greek. Graduates may find it easier to find work in the areas of tourism, information technology or the construction industry, where foreign qualifications are more readily accepted.

Greek and Turkish are the two official languages on the island. However, English is widely spoken and is almost universally used as a second language and is widely used in business. Knowledge of German, French, Russian and other European languages is becoming more important with the increase in the tourist trade.

Nicosia and Limassol are the two main employment centres in southern Cyprus. Many international and local companies have established massive operations here. Nicosia is the banking and financial centre, with opportunities available in investments, accounting, banking or general business. Limassol is the main port town - shipping and tourism are important economic drivers and main employers here.

There are numerous ways of successfully finding a job in Cyprus, but the best method of finding a job is through personal contacts. Because of the small size of the island and the limited number of inhabitants on Cyprus, intensive networks exist among inhabitants. Therefore most jobs are found through these networks. You are well advised to make the most of a summer holiday and get connected to the Cypriots.

Application procedures

- Your CV should emphasise your language skills and educational achievements.
- Generally speaking, if you have just graduated a one-page CV will usually suffice.
- References are not required on your CV - a simple note at the bottom that they are available on request is acceptable.
- The CV is usually sent with a covering letter stating the title of the job, information on your academic achievements as well as your language skills and positions of responsibility.

Interviews

The interview is the most important aspect of the application process and employers often ask questions to assess your skills and qualities.

Interviews for people who do not speak Greek are usually conducted in English, unless there is another common language. The candidate who is successful usually has two or three interviews.

Companies often hold written examinations or carry out practical tests at assessment centres. The employer analyses the capacities of the candidates to identify the best qualified individual.

What's it like working in Cyprus?

- Working hours vary according to sector and profession.
- Most offices and businesses work from 8am-5.30pm, with a break from 1pm-2.40pm.
- On average, workers in Cyprus are entitled to a minimum of 20 days paid annual leave, negotiated by collective agreements, with a further 15 days of public holidays.