

Employment In Greece

Whether you are a young person or an older person looking for work abroad there are plenty options for you.

There are people over here in Greece that are looking for English speaking workers so although it is not as easy to find work as it is in the UK there is still jobs to be found.

In the summer it is of course much easier to find work as there are a lot of places looking for people to work in bars, hotels, shops etc but you have to be around in about March or April at the latest in order to find these jobs, it is not like in the UK where you have job centers that you can go to, here in Greece especially in the Tourist industry you find work by asking around and word of mouth.

It is much more difficult in the winter as most places close down and the locals earn a living from their farms and harvesting the olives so don't expect to work during those six months, unless you are doing work for the expat community then just enjoy the rest.

I would advise anyone planning a new life in Greece is to either plan their own self employment or have something set up even if it means a trip out before you actually move over or through friends.

It is much easier to work for yourself here than working for someone else, so do your homework before you leave.

If you will be living in an expat community then if you have skills if you advertise in expat newspapers or websites or even by word of mouth then you should be able to find work. Many British people would rather have their work done by fellow Brits especially if they have not learnt much of the language.

Many people are looking for:

*Electricians

*Builders

*Plumbers

*Decorators

*Computer/IT Support

*Hairdressers

There are also other options for example if you have a white van and are willing to do removals as many people decide to move around until they find the right house or apartment for themselves and their family so they are always looking for someone who can help, and of course if you have the white van and are willing to take trips back and forth to the UK then you will be busy as there are always people coming and going.

If you come over thinking you will buy a bar or open a restaurant then unless you are very experienced and choose very carefully and have done lots of research I would advise you not to waste your time and money as it is very difficult and expensive and to be honest there is so much competition that the majority of people fail. Most people come on holiday and want to eat or drink in a Greek Taverna or bar and they are mostly family run and well established so it is not easy for a foreigner to open up here.

Estate Agents/Property Developers are often looking for English speaking people to work for them to sell land and property usually on a commission only basis, visit them in person or check out their websites.

There is also a considerable demand for teaching of English as a foreign language, mainly to children and there are opportunities for regular and part time employment.

Qualified nurses: Greek state hospitals only employ Greek nationals, however, patients in public hospitals here often need to employ a private nurse to care for them, as the hospital nursing staff do not nurse incapacitated patients. If you register with the government employment agency they will call on you when an English speaking nurse is required. You could also give your details or card to tour operators in your local area. A number of unfortunate tourists end up in hospital and some of them will need a private nurse.

Working Hours- In the summer there are no 9-5 jobs if you are working in the tourist industry, hours are long and you may only get a day off every two weeks or even just one a month, make sure you know this before you start and clarify with your employer, the Greeks often work a 7 day week all summer if it is their own business and that is normal for them as the season only lasts for 6 months.

Pay- If again you are working in the tourist industry the hours are long and the pay is quite low compared to the UK but then the cost of living is lower. Expect to earn around 600 Euros a month for full time work and maybe tips if you are doing a service job, officially employers should pay your National Insurance (IKA) but in reality most casual jobs

are paid cash in hand. If you are paid IKA then after you have 2 years worth of stamps you will qualify to claim winter payment (unemployment) which is around 450 Euros a month plus health insurance.

How to find work in Greece- There are a few ways to find work here in Greece a good place to start is to look in the English speaking newspapers and if you can read Greek then the Greek newspapers are a good source, there are also expat websites or local community boards that people advertise so check those out too.

The best way if you are looking for bar or hotel work or even in the tourist gift shops is to go into these establishments and ask if there is work available, you then get to meet the owners and you can chat with them and that is often an extremely effective way of getting this type of work.

Another way for this type of work is if you eat and drink in the local bars and tavernas then chat to the owners and often they will say that they are looking for staff, maybe you have visited the place on holiday and have come back year after year as this is often the case and have got to know a lot of the local people so they may well know of someone looking for staff.

Whatever work you decide to do in Greece make sure it is something you will enjoy you are not moving over to live in the sun to work even longer hours that you did in the UK.