

An open letter to candidates considering employment at International College:

Dear Candidate,

My name is Elizabeth Myers and I have been working at the middle school at International College for the past five years. I wanted to let you know what life is like outside of work. Let me start by saying that as a single, white, American female I have always felt entirely safe. I feel comfortable going out and coming home at night by myself. The streets are well lit and there are several good taxi companies to choose from.

One of the great things about where we are located in Beirut is that everything is so close that a car is not needed. The apartment building that the foreign hires live in is a ten-minute walk from campus. All other amenities are also nearby: grocery stores, gyms, restaurants, shopping, bars/pubs, dry cleaners, coffee shops, convenience shops are all a ten-minute or less walk away. There are megaplex movie theaters, malls and outdoor shopping available a short taxi ride away and cost approximately \$1.25 if you share a taxi. We are also a ten-minute walk from the Mediterranean Sea where the sunrises and sunsets are spectacular.

Even though I have lived in Beirut for five years I must confess that I do not speak either Arabic or French, but that has not stopped me from doing anything that I need. The majority of the population speak at least some English and I have been able to get along just fine. The school does offer a free Arabic class each term.

The night life here is quite active and you can be as involved as you choose. There are bars, movie theaters, restaurants, bowling, ice skating and much more. One of my favorite things to do here is very Lebanese, and that is to have a roof-top gathering. We have these a few times a year. We pull out the tables, chairs, grill and set up the projection TV and have quite an enjoyable time. If you feel like staying in but you don't want to cook...everything here can be delivered. From sushi to McDonald's, you can get it delivered. Sometimes, when I am feeling really lazy, I will order my groceries on-line and they, too, are delivered right to my door.

The apartments that we live in are well appointed. The living room has two large couches, entertainment center with TV and DVD player, along with every cable channel known to man. We all have dining tables that seat eight people, a full kitchen that includes an oven, stove and everything you would need down to the silverware and spice rack. Each apartment has its own washer and dryer. As a single person, I live in a two-bedroom apartment. I have converted one of the bedrooms into a study/den. The school removed the bedroom furniture and provided a large desk, storage cabinet and a bookshelf. All the apartments have windows on either end and we are able to get a nice cross breeze.

I find Beirut a very easy place to live. I enjoy not having a car, although some teachers here have opted to buy one. Cars are available for rent should you choose some weekend to drive up the coast or spend a weekend touring.

Should any of you have any specific questions you would like to ask, my e-mail is emyers@ic.edu.lb.

Good luck with your decision on employment. Beirut and IC has been one of my best choices.

Elizabeth Myers