

LOCATION

Country: Luxembourg

Town: Capellen, Luxembourg

Base: NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA)

Other info to consider:

- Family (non-dependents) can visit and stay for 90 days **without a visa** (Schengen Area).

POPULATION

Size: Luxembourg City: 120,000 (2019). Country: 600,000 (2019).

Ethnicity: Luxembourgers (50%), Portuguese (18%), French (13%), Germany (10%), and others (8%). Multi-ethnic population, large international workforce.

LANGUAGE(S)

Official language: Luxembourgish, French and German

Prevalence of French or English speaking: French is prevalent and some English is spoken. The citizens all know and function in the three official languages as schooling is done in all three. The services sector tends to function in French, information and legal sectors use German, and everyday life and conversations tend to be in Luxembourgish.

COST OF LIVING

Exchange rate to consider: Euro

QUALITY OF LIFE

Climate and potential for severe weather, natural disasters:

- The winters are mild but very rainy and covered. Luxembourg is located further north than Ottawa, so the days in summer are long and short in winter. The longest days are in June with approximately 16 hours of daylight. On the other hand, the longest and darkest nights are in the winter. In December, a night in Luxembourg lasts almost 16 hours.

Laws and culture:

- Penalties for possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs are severe. Public intoxication and disorderly conduct are illegal.
- If you are a Canadian citizen, but also a citizen of Luxembourg, consular services may be limited.
- Penalties for drinking and driving are severe. The legal blood alcohol limit is 0.02 per cent for those with a commercial or learner's permit and 0.05 per cent for others. If a police officer suspects you of drinking and driving, they could confiscate your driver's licence on the spot. If you're convicted, you can expect heavy fines.
- You should carry an international driving permit. You should obtain one before leaving Canada.

Safety and security:

- While it is a safe city, look out for pickpockets as in any European city.
- There is a threat of terrorism in Europe. Terrorist attacks have occurred in several European cities. There is a potential for other violent incidents.

Level of isolation:

- Only one Canadian family is in this location.

HOUSING

- If you want to live close to or in the City of Luxembourg, you will likely live in an apartment.
- Most apartments will not allow pets, especially dogs.
- When choosing a house, keep in mind that traffic into Luxembourg City in the morning (from Belgium, France, and Germany) and out at night is extremely heavy.
- The cost of housing reduces as you move away from the City Center.

EMPLOYMENT

Are there employment opportunities for spouses?

- Due to tax and legal implications, spousal employment in Luxembourg is not a realistic option.
- There are very limited employment opportunities available through CFMWS, so families should plan to be a single-income family for the duration of the posting.

Op tempo: The op tempo will vary greatly depending on the position. TD is possible.

HEALTH CARE

Access: Excellent quality health services

- The Canadian Medical Clinic in Geilenkirchen is responsible for the healthcare of all Canadian military members in Europe and can be accessed.
- All bills associated with the care of dependents are the member's personal responsibility and are to be claimed through PSHCP.

Special needs:

- Yes, depending on language required (English/French), area of specialization and degree of support needed.
- It is highly advised the family consult with Medical Screening Officer in Canada and/or the Canadian Element to ensure that the required services are readily available in either English or French before accepting a posting.

Consideration for pregnancy/birth:

- Health care for pregnancy and birth is available in Luxembourg.

Dental:

- Dental care can be accessed in town. You are required to pay upfront, and you can then claim your expenses.

SCHOOLING

- There are no French or English language schools indicated for this posting. Contact CEM for dependent education options.

Curriculum vs. Canadian curriculum:

- Curriculum varies depending on the choice of school.
- Canadian history or geography is not offered at any school.

Resources for special needs children:

- Special needs services depend on the choice of school, language required (English/French), area of specialization and degree of support needed, so it may be very limited.

CHILDCARE

- Largely available in the economy.
- Children four and under living in Luxembourg can attend a "crèche," similar to a nursery school. Luxembourgish is the language spoken in public crèches. For care in English or French, you will need to seek a private "crèche."

TRANSPORTATION

- Luxembourg Airport (LUX)
- Excellent and free public transport
- Good biking to work and walking everywhere.
- Buying a used car is expensive in Luxembourg

RESOURCES AND AMENITIES

Is there a Military Family Services centre available in that location?

- No, but remote services are available from MFS(E) Casteau/SHAPE located in Mons, Belgium.

Psychosocial/mental health resources:

- Not at the post, and the MFS(E) SW is for dependents only. The CAF SW/Mental Health Team for members and families is located in Geilenkirchen, Germany. The chaplain is located in Belgium.

Communications (e.g. quality of Internet connection):

- Good, reliable, and widely offered.

ACTIVITIES

Access to sports or other leisure activities: Yes

Availability of playgrounds: Yes



RESTRICTIONS TO CONSIDER

Are common-law relationships recognized? Yes

Are same sex-couples recognized? Yes

Medications that are illegal in the country:

- Cannabis is illegal but decriminalised.

Other considerations:

- Some dog breeds are banned including Staffordshire Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier (Pit Bull Terrier), and Japanese Tosa Inu.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- European Commission Country Reports (2022)
https://commission.europa.eu/publications/2022-european-semester-country-reports_en
- Canadian Travel Advisories
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>
- CIA World Factbooks (One pager from the US)
<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/luxembourg>
- Living Abroad (from Gov.UK)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-luxembourg>
- Consumer Price Index (CPI)
<https://data.imf.org/?sk=4FFB52B2-3653-409A-B471-D47B46D904B5>

For more comprehensive information, please feel free to reach out to the resources below

- MFS(E) Social Worker Andrea Liss: liss.andrea@cfmws.com
- CAF Social Worker: GKMedicalClinic@forces.gc.ca
- MFS(E) Shape: + 32 (0) 44 65 5962, MFSE.Shape@cfmws.com
- MFS(E) Regional Office: +49 (0) 2451 717 173, MFS.Europe@cfmws.com