

## Moscow/Beijing Embassy Testimonials

PAE



### **My Experience: One contract, two countries, great people. Small world!**

The onset of my PAE experience began in Moscow, Russia in January 2011 as an electrician. Although I found the weather cold, I discovered an amazing warmth from the fellow PAE employees. Everyone was very willing to help the "new guy" in succeeding in a new and different environment. I realized living and working in a foreign country comes with difficulties in the beginning but soon passes with the help of a great community.

I worked as an electrician for around 6 months and then was promoted to the chancery foreman. I found great satisfaction in managing a great group of people in a challenging environment. After serving the rest of my contract in Moscow, I applied and was granted an electrician position in Guangzhou, China. After 6 months in Guangzhou, I applied and was hired as the maintenance supervisor there. After serving over 2 years as a facility supervisor in Guangzhou, PAE afforded me the opportunity as the Resident Manager based in Beijing.

Upon arriving to Beijing, I reunited with many of the same people I had originally met and grew friendships with in Moscow years ago. One contract, 2 countries, great people and living in a great big world proving itself to be a small world in the end!

-TW, U.S. Embassy, Moscow, Electrician, Chancery Foreman, 2011-2013

U.S. Consulate, Guangzhou, Electrician, Maintenance Supervisor, 2013-2015

U.S. Embassy Beijing, Resident Manager, 2015-Present

### **Career, Travel Opportunities**

After a number of years on a service truck in Pennsylvania, I signed on with PAE as a plumber in Moscow. There is a very different set of responsibilities managing the water in an Embassy as opposed to a residence, and challenges were numerous. There was always support from PAE and the Department of State when needed. Following my initial two years in Moscow, PAE afforded me the opportunity to travel to Beijing, again as a plumber. I spent three years in China, the last as the Building Trades Supervisor. During my time with PAE, my wife Holly and I snorkeled Red Sea reefs in Egypt, sailed up the Bosphorus in Turkey and visited Peter the

Great's boyhood home in St. Petersburg. We traveled all over China, Vietnam and vacationed in Koi Samui, Thailand. I am now serving as the Program Operations Manager for PAE's Embassy Project in Iraq. This is a company that recognizes and rewards achievement. PAE is not just a job -- it's an opportunity.

-RL, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Plumber, 2004-2006  
U.S. Embassy Beijing, Plumber, Trades Supervisor, 2006-2008  
U.S. Embassy Baghdad, Deputy Project Manager, 2008-2010  
Program Operations Manager for Iraq in WDC, 2010-2013

### **Exciting and Satisfying**

Working for PAE has been exciting and satisfying, both professionally and personally. We have been posted in three locations (Moscow, Beijing, Ho Chi Minh City and Vietnam) and I have been sent for temporary duty to seven Consulates and four Embassies. The State Department is very supportive and has provided additional training where it is needed. PAE has also given me the support and assistance that I need to get a job done. Personally, it has given us the opportunity to travel to places we had never heard of and experience things that we had only dreamed of. Working overseas has challenges—both on and off the job—but these have made us better people, opened our eyes to new ways of doing things, and allowed us to make friends around the world.

-EB, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Elevator Tech, Electrical Foreman, 1998-2002  
U.S. Embassy Beijing, Electrician, 2003-2007  
U.S. Consulate Ho Chi Minh City, Facility Manager Assistant, 2007-2011  
U.S. Embassy Ashgabat, Facility Manager Assistant, 2011-2014  
U.S. Embassy Chisinau, Facility Manager Assistant, 2015-Present

### **Discovering Beijing**

Learning the way of Chinese culture is a wonderful and ever-changing environment for many. We as visitors are made to feel welcome by the most friendly people an outsider will ever encounter. More than just a cultural enlightenment, it is a rich existence to experience the everyday sights and the many celebrations of Asia.

From Hutongs to Temples. From the Great Wall to Tiananmen Square. From the continuous waving red flags with golden stars that adorn huge government buildings to the small Mau and Pop owned concessions. All unaffected by the continuous background racket of car horns resembling a symphony preparing to, but never coming to, a harmony.

From the old guard still dawned in their drab Mau style jackets and caps move slowly performing Tai Chi in beautifully manicured parks, to ladies performing their own style of elegance in latest fashion elevated high off Beijing's spotless streets on 6 inch saber heels.

Confucius said a lot of things about a lot of things, but discovering Beijing can only be accomplished by coming to China.

-JB, U.S. Embassy Beijing, Generator Mechanic 2010-2014

## **A Great Environment**

From the start, I was treated with respect and honesty, and when I needed a little "above and beyond" from management, they did not hesitate. Very classy. Regarding the Russian environment; don't be a slave to first impressions. Keep an open mind. Regarding the job, think "team."

-JW, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Electrician, 2002-2004

## **Tools for Success**

PAE gave me the opportunities that I just could have not imagined; great place to live, plenty of leave time and making me feel like I was part of the family. I believe that PAE has given me all the tools that I needed to be successful and become the man I am today; Proud (to be working for them), Attentive (because that's what the customer deserves) & Efficient (because that's the PAE way), that's P.A.E.!

-RD, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Carpenter, 1992-1994;  
U.S. Consulate St. Petersburg, Carpenter, 2000-2002;  
U.S. Embassy Beijing, Building Trades Supervisor, 2003-2007

## **Teamwork**

My first four year assignment with PAE started in December of 1999. Moscow and the surrounding areas are filled with historical sites, and there's always something to do in the city. I enjoyed my first assignment tour in Moscow and decided to come back for my second assignment in December of 2004. I have always been pleased with the operation of the contract under PAE. They have always fulfilled their obligations, and I respect everyone from management to the craft personnel involved in our maintenance of the Embassy. There's a strong sense of teamwork that allows us all to come together to achieve our goals.

-ED, U.S. Embassy Moscow, HVAC Technician, 1999-2003, 2004-2008, HVAC Master 2008-2009

## **A Rare Opportunity**

I've recommended it to quite a few people because of the low intensity atmosphere and good compensation package. The leave time and travel opportunities are fantastic. It's a rare opportunity.

-BM, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Refrigeration/Appliance Tech, HVAC 2004-2006,  
U.S. Embassy Hanoi, Maintenance Technician, 2007-2008,  
U.S. Embassy Kyiv, HVAC Technician, 2008-2011,  
U.S. Embassy Chisinau, Facility Manager Assistant, 2011-2015

## **An Opportunity to Grow**

I've enjoyed working with people and the opportunity to use my trade skills to benefit the Embassy project, as well as the chance to learn and gain experience from other employees. I've improved on my communication skills on a daily basis, and the opportunity to work with individuals from abroad adds to a richer experience.

-MK, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Building Maintenance Mechanic, 2004-2007

## **Promote from Within, Tandem Couple Opportunities**

My wife and I joined PAE as a tandem couple in June of 2000. We soon discovered that working for PAE is a wonderful way to see the world and to even get paid while you travel to many exotic places. The tandem couple bonus was certainly a great-added benefit. I started as an Elevator Technician, and my wife started as a Payroll Clerk. During my tour in Moscow, I was promoted to the Facilities Supervisor position, while my wife was also promoted to a PAE position in the Housing Department. I have also worked as PAE's Facility Coordinator in Beijing. PAE's desire to maintain a 'promote from within policy' has been beneficial to me and many other employees!

-RR, U.S. Embassy Moscow 2000-2002, 2006, Elevator Tech, Facilities Supervisor 2003-2004, 2006-2007, Resident Manager U.S. Embassy Moscow 2008-2010, U.S. Embassy Beijing, Facility Coordinator, 2004-2006, U.S. Embassy Beijing, Resident Manager, 2011-2013, Project Support Manager, Washington DC, 2013-2014

## **Hospitality**

The sponsor met me at the airport, took me to my apartment and had food in the apartment waiting for me.

-SS, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Custodian, 1997- 2000

## **Culture and Community**

I accepted the position with PAE in Moscow already having spent time working overseas; therefore I knew well the sacrifices, benefits and challenges of an overseas lifestyle. The Embassy community and PAE do a good job of introducing new arrivals to their new environment. PAE employees really depend on each other all the time, no matter what your experiences are, educational level, position or where you are from. One can live here for years and years and never experience half of what Moscow has to offer. Theaters, museums, parks, zoos, great and inexpensive restaurants, modern stores, discos and much more await you. With your generous amount of leave and holidays you have plenty of time to experience Russian life. If you are invited into a Russian home, you'll find that they are some of the best hosts in the world. The government housing is excellent, to say the least. The apartments on the Embassy compound and in the city are all spacious, modern, and are fully supported by the Embassy staff. I really could not come close to affording such an apartment in the States. When I want to be "American," I can retire to my private residence and shut out Russia. On one day in the Embassy compound I can rent an American movie, get a haircut, get my suit dry-cleaned

and buy groceries in an American store. The Marine guards are on call 24 X 7 in case you find yourself in trouble at any time or any place. That is nice to know. PAE is just of piece of the pie that is the Embassy community – it's been around for quite a few years, and the State Department is glad to have us. We perform crucial duties to keep the Embassy functioning -- often those duties are not explicitly defined on paper. Civil service has always demanded a great deal of flexibility, and PAE is right in the center of those demands. It is a challenge that I am proud of, and have found that it's worth taking on.

-GK, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Resident Manager's Assistant, 2001-2003

### **OT & Housing**

Overtime was available, and the housing was good. It's a good outfit to work with.

-MC, U.S. Embassy Moscow, HVAC Technician, 1998-2000

### **Perks**

The things I like best... No Rent or Utilities payment every month.

-BL, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Custodian, 1997-2001

### **A Terrific Place to Work**

Compensation is more than fair; housing is better than I had hoped for; recreational facilities are well equipped; and there is real concern on behalf of State Department personnel as to your overall well-being. The U.S. Embassy in Moscow is more than just a good place to work!

-RK, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Electrician, 2000-2002

### **Enjoy the Challenge**

Working in Moscow provides a challenging and adventurous lifestyle with very fair pay. Love that five weeks of vacation and holidays too numerous to count!

-BB, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Custodial Supervisor 1993-1996, 1999-2002,  
U.S. Embassy Beijing, Custodian/Escort, 2003-2004,  
U.S. Consulate Guangzhou, Custodian/Escort 2004-2007

## **Great People**

I had great people working around me both with PAE and the State Department. There was an opportunity to travel, and I made great friends.

-BO, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Custodian, Custodial Supervisor, 2002-2004, Safety Program Coordinator 2006-2008,  
Safety Program Coordinator U.S. Embassy Beijing, 2012-2014

## **Personal Development**

Every day is a learning experience both on and off the job. I have learned a tremendous amount of information regarding the operations of an Embassy. I have met a great deal of people from around the world and have made many friends. It has been an incredible opportunity for personal growth. I also enjoy being able to improve my Russian language skills with friends and co-workers on a daily basis.

-NT, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Resident Manager's Assistant, 1997- 2001, RSO Assistant 2002-2004, 2009, HR Assistant 2009-2010

## **A Great Place to Live**

I enjoyed most living in the city of Moscow and interacting with the Russians and taking in as much of the culture as possible.

-JA, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Painter, 1998-2001

## **Challenging Environment**

PAE is a first class organization. Our responsibility of keeping our nation's third largest Embassy running is a major task, and that is exciting to me! Your experience will be truly what you make of it!

-JM, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Property Specialist 2009-2010, Secure Warehouse Manager, 2010-2011

## **Be Part of the Diplomatic Community**

Great Job and People to work with. Awesome opportunity to see the world and inner working of international relations between our government and other governments.

-LL, U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Electrician, 2008-2011,  
U.S. Embassy Moscow, Electrician 2012-2014,  
U.S. Embassy Beijing, Electrician, 2016-Present

## **Travel, Great People, Sense of Community**

The work is good. PAE is great to work for, but it's the people that are the best! There is of course the adventure and travel opportunities, but for me the best part is working within the Diplomatic community and local craftsmen. A great experience!

-DD, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Plumber, Plumbing Shop Foreman, 2008-2011,  
U.S. Embassy Beijing, Plumber, HVAC Technician 2011-2013

## **Enjoying the overseas experience**

Favorite part of working with PAE: Traveling to various posts, receiving the overwhelmingly positive comments about the performance of our employees, the challenges of living and working abroad and the daily interactions with PAE folks. There are no bad housing arrangements for PAE in Beijing, each place has pros and cons but overall, they are very nice. Living in Beijing provides a wonderful opportunity as a starting point for travel throughout China and the rest of Asia. Working overseas can be different and challenging but those with patience and a positive attitude will find an assignment like this very rewarding!

-WE, U.S. Embassy Moscow, Resident Manager, 1999-2003, 2005-2008  
U.S. Embassy Beijing, Resident Manager, 2008-2011  
Deputy Program Director for Embassies, 2011-2013  
U.S. Embassy Beijing, Resident Manager 2013-2015