



EMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

American Citizen Newsletter

March 2015

Meet the Section: Cristin Heinbeck

Meet Consul Cristin Heinbeck, who has acted as Embassy Ouagadougou's Consular Chief since 2013. She will remain here through this September, when she and her family will move to Washington for her next assignment.

Where do you call home in the United States? I hail from the Great Lakes State, and grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Before Burkina Faso, where were you posted? My previous post was Bogota, Colombia, where we indulged in foodie culture and eternal spring weather. Prior to that, I was in Abuja, Nigeria, where I worked as the political officer reporting on religious conflict in northern Nigeria.

Why did you decide to pursue this career? I was living in Guatemala as a volunteer during Hurricane Stan. A consular officer assisted us, which brought my attention to the career.

What do you like most about your job? I like that every day brings something different. It also gives me an opportunity to serve my country.

What's been your favorite thing about Burkina Faso since you arrived? I've had fantastic local colleagues. I've enjoyed the opportunity to travel off the beaten path, particularly with the local wildlife and scenery.



FPCA for Voting Overseas

Living overseas doesn't mean you can't vote. Don't miss out on the opportunity to have your voice heard and your vote counted this November.

To vote as an absentee voter overseas, follow these three simple steps:

1. Complete the [Federal Post Card Application](#) and send it to local election officials where you last resided before moving abroad.
2. You will receive a blank absentee ballot electronically or by mail. All U.S. citizens can now receive their blank ballots electronically.
3. Complete your ballot and return it before your state's ballot return deadline. You can drop off your ballot request or voted ballot at our consular section as well.

Many states now allow electronic return of voted ballots. You can consult the [FVAP Voting Assistance Guide](#) for electronic transmission options for your state.

Provided Services

The Consular Section provides the following routine services for U.S. citizens in Burkina Faso:

- Passport application and renewal
- Notarial services
- Consular Reports of Birth Abroad
- Consular Reports of Death Abroad

To schedule a non-emergency service, contact the Consular Section to schedule an appointment.

Hours

Consular Section

Monday to Thursday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm
Friday, 7:30 am to 12:30 pm

Non-Emergency Citizen Services

Monday and Thursday, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm,
by appointment

Phone Office Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Friday, 8:00am to 10:00am

Embassy Ouagadougou is closed during U.S. and Burkina Faso holidays.

Upcoming Dates

March 8: International Women's Day (Burkina Faso)

March 28: Easter Monday (Burkina Faso)

May 2: International Labor Day (Burkina Faso)

May 5: Ascension Day (Burkina Faso)

May 30: Memorial Day (U.S.)