



**COUNTRY GUIDE**  
**EA INTERNATIONAL - CHANNEL ISLANDS**

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### THE LEGAL MARKET

The Channel Islands are renowned as one of the world's leading offshore destinations. Situated approximately 120 miles off the coast of England and 14 miles from the coast of France, they have a combined population of approximately 160 000 people. The legal market is governed by specialist international offshore firms, with a particular focus on Corporate/Funds and Financial Services work.

Funds management work is of an exceptionally high quality, with lawyers regularly being called on to advise commercial and institutional clients in London, the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands.

Respected international firms with stellar practices in the Channel Islands include Maples & Calder, Walkers Global, Carey Olsen, Mourant, Appleby Hunter Bailhache, Ogier and Bedell Cristin. These firms will consider strong candidates from Australia/New Zealand, favouring those with strong academics and experience from a top tier firm.

### SALARIES AND TAXES

Lawyers in the Channel Islands can expect competitive salaries starting at approximately GBP 60, 000 at the newly qualified lawyer and climbing to GBP90,000+ at the 5 year level . Although often lower than equivalent magic circle salaries in gross terms, this is offset by low tax rates and a superb quality of life in the Channel Islands. Tax in the Channel Islands is set at a flat rate of 20%, a rate which has remained unchanged since 1940. There is no value-added tax (VAT) or estate duty, no capital gains tax and no inheritance duty.

### COST OF LIVING

Cost of living in the Channel Islands correlates roughly with that in the UK, although the lack of a Value Added Tax can mean that certain items are significantly cheaper. Food purchases tend to be slightly more expensive, however, as most items are imported.

### VISAS AND WORK PERMITS

As is the case in London, all Australian and New Zealand seeking to work in the region will require a work visa. Employers will take care of applications to the home office on your behalf, well in advance of your anticipated arrival. For more information, please see our London Guide.

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### LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE

Jersey has a rich and diverse cultural backdrop with a vibrant arts scene, fascinating heritage sites and an array of active clubs and associations providing access to leisure and sport for everyone. In addition to its scenic beauty, the island of Jersey is renowned for its European lifestyle. Golfing and water sports enthusiasts will not be found wanting, with first class golf courses and sailing clubs on hand.

Shopping is also a pleasure. Many electronic, clothing and cosmetic products can be up to 20% cheaper than elsewhere in Europe, due to the lack of any Value Added Tax.

Finally, the Channel Islands are a convenient launch point for European travel. Jersey has a modern airport which provides frequent and regular air services to London, Paris, Zurich and Dublin, with regular sea travel to England and France.

### FURTHER INFORMATION AND USEFUL LINKS:

[www.gov.je](http://www.gov.je)

[www.jersey.com](http://www.jersey.com)

[www.gov.gg](http://www.gov.gg)

[www.visitguernsey.com](http://www.visitguernsey.com)

**For more information on living and working in the Channel Islands contact one of our international experts on +61 2 9266 2900 or Email at [ea@ea-int.com](mailto:ea@ea-int.com) or visit our website: [www.ea-int.com](http://www.ea-int.com).**