



# MOVING ABROAD



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## What do you want from a move?

- a better lifestyle
- career advancement
- the opportunity to work on international business
- greater financial rewards
- somewhere to bring up children
- a vibrant culture
- proximity to loved ones

These are just some of the reasons for considering a move – but it's worth remembering that no one location offers it all. Establishing your priorities will make it easier for you to decide whether a new location will suit you. We can advise you, of course, but we also strongly recommend that you visit the country in question before making your decision.

## Visas

### **It is far easier to work in some parts of the world than others.**

- USA: unless you have a visa to work in the States, we probably won't be able to help you, as it is very difficult to find companies that can sponsor employees from overseas.
- Asia and the Middle East: on the whole, they will sponsor candidates from anywhere in the world, although increasingly they are looking for applicants with local market knowledge and local language skills.
- Europe: it is extremely difficult to get companies to sponsor workers without visas, so before you start looking you must secure a visa in your own right. The good news is that this is often easier than people imagine.
- Australia/NZ: both countries are usually prepared to sponsor candidates with good commercial experience.

## Money

You may have to take a cut in salary, particularly if you are moving to a new market. When looking at the offer, remember to take the following into account:

**tax**

**cost of living**

**cost of education**

**cost of health**

**cost of housing**

**pension arrangements**

Research the country thoroughly to investigate any odd unexpected differences in costs, such as cars, healthcare, transport, food and alcohol, as prices can vary enormously from country to country.

If you know you will have to move money between your new country and your original home – to pay off student loans or continue paying a mortgage, say, if you don't sell your home – consider the implications of exchange rates, too.

## Emigration checklist

- ✓ Decide where you would like to live.
- ✓ Go on a fact-finding visit (you could attend interviews at the same time).
- ✓ Investigate any visa requirements.
- ✓ Consider job opportunities – not only for yourself, but for any other members of the family moving with you.
- ✓ Decide what you are going to do with your current home.
- ✓ If you have pets to move, find out what this will involve.
- ✓ Dig out all your personal paperwork: birth certificates; educational qualifications; driving licences; marriage certificates, etc.
- ✓ Get your finances in order.
- ✓ If you have children, make sure you investigate schooling and child care.
- ✓ Work out whether it is worth shipping your possessions to your new country.
- ✓ Open a bank account in the new country.
- ✓ Arrange private healthcare if necessary.
- ✓ Make sure all contacts are aware of your change of address and new details.
- ✓ Have a party to say goodbye!

## Find out more

- For general advice for British nationals on living and working overseas, visit the Foreign & Commonwealth Office website.
- For advice on moving to the UK for work, including information about the new points-based entry system, visit the UK Border Agency website.
- For information on moving to Australia for work, visit the Australian Government's Department of Immigration and Citizenship website.
- To find out about moving to Singapore for work, visit the Singapore Government's Immigration & Checkpoints Authority website.
- For information on moving to the US for work, visit the US Citizenship and Immigration Services website.

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