

# Moving to Expatland™

The opportunity for overseas employment appeals to many people and attracts significant interest across the globe.

If your objective is to enrich your own life and your family's with a range of cultural experiences, then relocating to Expatland™ may make good sense.

'Expatland™' is a 'country' with more than 230 million people in a place consisting of different nationalities from all over the world. If it were a single country, it would be the fifth largest country in the world after China, India, US, Indonesia and Brazil.

You may be moving to Expatland™ as part of your current employment or to pursue new opportunities. If you are moving with an existing employer, the motivation for this may be to demonstrate support to senior global management or to gain experience and advance within the corporation.

Other expats may view life in Expatland™ as a way to travel to foreign countries and learn about new cultures and gain fresh experiences.

Regardless of your personal motivation, there are a number of important planning points to consider and resolve.

Often expats arrive in Expatland™ without a detailed understanding of the cost of living. It is worth noting that a higher salary may in fact be offset by a higher cost of living in Expatland™.

For example, some costs, such as education, may be much higher than in your home country. If you are moving to a lower cost city in Expatland™, then it may be that moving country while still on the same level of salary you have already could still provide a significant economic advantage.

This may be due to the fact that you are able to rent out your family home and reduce your mortgage faster than if you resided there. The position has to be considered, as do other financial planning opportunities, which are discussed.

Money as a reason to move to Expatland™ is just one consideration.



Our experience is that life in Expatland™ is not for everyone.

It can present its own unique challenges, and therefore it is beneficial, wherever possible, to keep close connections with former employers and work associates. That way, if you decide to return to your home country, you will be kept abreast of work and other opportunities that may come up after your departure.

Equally important is that you maintain your knowledge of any technical and business developments in your area of work that occur while you are in Expatland™.

The reason for this is that your knowledge may have been current when you left your homeland, but without maintaining that knowledge you face the prospect of becoming outdated. This makes it harder to return if you wish to stay in the same industry.

It may be equally likely that destination Expatland™ offers you a greater range of training and experience that will provide better opportunities on your return to your home country than if you had not left in the first place.

An important question for a number of families is whether the whole family should travel to Expatland™ to begin with.

It is commonly the case that the man of the household has his job relocated, but it does work both ways. Sometimes the female spouse or partner may, for a variety of reasons, not be able to join the expat overseas. It may be that her occupation offers limited potential in Expatland™.

Often referred to as the 'trailing spouse', the male or female life partner will need to evaluate their journey to Expatland™ from both financial and non-financial perspectives.

We have seen many cases of such spouses leaving good employment positions in their home country but not being able to secure employment in Expatland™ for some time. This can cause marital unrest and should be considered carefully.

There are exceptions to a lack of mobility – for example, EU nationals can usually enter other EU countries looking for employment, and some countries such as Australia and New Zealand also offer relaxed entry rules.

As a general rule, a trailing spouse will have a higher likelihood of employment if they possess specialist or professional qualifications and experience.

This will clearly be so for those professions that are in high demand in Expatland™, such as medical, dental, IT, and engineering professionals. In some countries foreign language teachers are highly sought after.

At a minimum, it is important to confirm if their present qualifications are sufficient to gain employment in Expatland™. Your spouse or partner may be required to obtain upgraded or new qualifications prior to beginning work.

Many global expatriates move to a variety of locations over a number of years and the challenges that arise when moving from jurisdiction to jurisdiction are significant.

Some of these challenges will include finding a support network in the country of arrival; getting out exploring and understanding the difference between the countries; figuring out how to stay in touch with family and friends.

If you want to obtain further information about Moving to Expatland™ please order the book 'Expatland™', by John Marcarian.

The focus of this book are the accounting, taxation, legal, financial planning and insurance issues associated with moving to Expatland™. The most important challenges to address from our perspective are the taxation, structuring and estate planning matters.

Throughout the book we will cover topics related to planning for life in Expatland™, particularly in the above areas. We will also touch on most commonly asked questions about life as an expatriate.

Overall, the aim of the book is to form a basis for the reader to consider strategies and their approach to adapting, living, surviving, but most importantly thriving in Expatland™.

## Contact us

We would be pleased to discuss your personal position.

Please contact us via email: [intro@cst.international](mailto:intro@cst.international)

For further information please visit our website: [cst.international](http://cst.international)