

News Release

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Expats regard Malaysia as a country offering better work life balance

Malaysia offers expats a good work/life balance, a friendly culture and lower costs for raising a child, the new HSBC Expat Explorer report reveals.

The vast majority (78%) of expats in Malaysia say that their work/ life balance is as good as or better than in their home country. This is slightly more than the expat average across Asia-Pacific (72%), but considerably more than other emerging economies such as the Philippines, where only 59% of expats see their work/life balance stays the same or improves.

Expat Explorer is an independent consumer research study into global expat views, commissioned by HSBC Expat. It provides authoritative insights into expats' attitudes, behaviours and opinions on the financial and social aspects of the countries they live in.

In the ninth edition of this annual survey, nearly 27,000 expats from 190 countries and territories shared their thoughts and experiences of expat life, creating the 2016 Expat Explorer report titled "Achieving ambitions abroad".

Commenting on the survey, Lim Eng Seong, Country Head, Retail Banking and Wealth Management, HSBC Malaysia, said "This year's findings suggest that whatever individuals are seeking in life, whether it is finding more fulfilment in career, immersing in a new culture, buying a property or getting access to better education for children, expat life can help reach that goal."

"Expat life can be an exciting and challenging experience, often involving a leap into the unknown to test one's comfort zones. Expats embrace fresh challenges all the time while building their lives, careers and families in many different locations around the world. As an emerging Asian economy, Malaysia offers expats a pleasant perspective in life as 64% of expats in Malaysia say they integrate well with the local people and culture, more than the global average of 61%" added Lim Eng Seong.

Every year, the research is used to create country league tables covering three aspects of life abroad: Economics, Experience and Family.

Expats' ratings of 45 host countries including Malaysia are available to explore online through the [Expat Explorer interactive tool](#).

Although expat incomes in Malaysia are in line with the global average, expats in the country are able to save and spend more than they could at home. While on average expats in Malaysia earn USD104,000 (compared with the global average of USD97,000), 61% say they have more

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disposable income than at home, compared to 56% of expats globally. The majority (58%) of expats in Malaysia also say they are able to save more, compared with the global average of 53%.

Expats find Malaysia a welcoming place to live, with 65% of expats finding it easy to form new friendships in the country, compared with 57% across Asia-Pacific. Expats in Malaysia are also more likely to say they felt at home in the country within six months (40% compared with 32% of expats globally).

More than a third (35%) of expats in Malaysia say the overall cost of raising children is less expensive than it was in their home country. This is considerably more than the global average (19%) and the average across Asia-Pacific (22%). Despite the lower costs for raising a child, the quality of life for children in Malaysia is in line with the global average. Nearly three in five (59%) expats parents in Malaysia say their children's quality of life is better than it was in their home country, compared with 60% of expats globally and 62% across Asia-Pacific.

Expats find it relatively easy to relocate to Malaysia. Nearly two thirds (66%) say finding accommodation is easy, well above the global average of 46%. More than half (52%) say organising healthcare is easy in Malaysia, just above the 50% average of expats across Asia-Pacific.

The survey also shares a few practical steps for individuals planning to venture into Expat life:

- 1. Boosting financial plans:** Before moving, have a financial review of long-term plans and consider if expat life can help speed up progress towards achieving the financial goals.
- 2. Considering opportunities to buy property:** If you live abroad and plan to buy a property back home, either as a buy-to-let investment or to live in when you return, make sure to seek professional advice if you need help. If you plan to buy where you live, make sure you understand the local property market and regulations, as these can affect your ability to rent or sell your property if you move again.
- 3. Understanding your employee benefits package:** Consider what you need to be comfortable at home and effective at work. Ask your employer to tailor your package accordingly, ensuring that your particular needs are fully covered.
- 4. Learning to manage finances abroad:** Ask other expats how they have handled these challenges and consider whether you need additional information or professional advice on managing your money abroad

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About HSBC in Malaysia

HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad was locally incorporated in 1984 and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (a company under the HSBC Group). In 2007, HSBC Bank Malaysia was the first locally incorporated foreign bank to be awarded an Islamic banking subsidiary licence in Malaysia, and HSBC Amanah Malaysia Berhad, a full-fledged Islamic bank wholly owned by HSBC Bank Malaysia, commenced operations in August 2008. HSBC in Malaysia has a network of 68 branches nationwide, of which 26 are HSBC Amanah Malaysia Berhad branches. HSBC Amanah Malaysia Berhad also has offsite ATMs established in 25 locations nationwide. In 2006, HSBC was the first foreign bank to be awarded a Takaful (Islamic insurance) license in Malaysia. HSBC Amanah Takaful (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, a joint venture between HSBC Insurance (Asia Pacific) Holdings Limited (49% shareholding), Jerneh Asia Berhad (31% shareholding) and Employees Provident Fund Board of Malaysia (20% shareholding) commenced operations in August 2006.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

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About the Expat Explorer survey and country league table

An expatriate is defined as anyone over 18 years old, currently living away from their country of origin/home country

The Expat Explorer survey was completed by 26,871 expats from 190 countries through an online questionnaire in March and April 2016.

A minimum sample of 100 expat respondents and at least 30 expat parents is required for a country to be included in the league tables, with 45 countries qualifying in 2016.

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