

# News Release

16 March 2016

## Malaysia amongst top 3 of countries where expats feel at home in less than a year

- 61% of expats in Malaysia feel at home in less than a year
- Top countries where expats adjust in less than 6 months are Bahrain, Malaysia and Mexico
- Making friends is expats' top tip to feel like locals
- Data is revealed as 2016 Expat Explorer Survey opens  
<https://start.yougov.com/refer/vysfh7HYcJdChF?&source=2>

Kuala Lumpur: Life as an expat can be quite an adjustment. According to data from last year's Expat Explorer survey, the countries where more expats felt at home in less than a year are Bahrain (66%), India (63%) and Malaysia (61%). This compares to 48% of all expats surveyed globally. Expats looking to settle in even quicker can consider moving to Mexico, where 42% said the country felt like home instantly or in less than six months, just behind Bahrain (47%) and Malaysia (43%). If you're living or working abroad and are 18 or over, we want to hear about your experience to help other expats navigate the opportunities and challenges of life abroad. The 2016 Expat Explorer survey is open to all expats from now until 17 April.

### Top 10 countries where expats feel at home in less than a year

Bahrain
India
Malaysia
Mexico
Taiwan
Oman
Russia
Spain
Indonesia
Vietnam

According to these findings, expats experience different milestones on their path to feeling like locals. They said making friends or developing their social life and starting to understand the local culture and etiquette have played the greatest part in making a strong connection with their host country.

In Malaysia, 53% expats said making friends was an important milestone on the way to feeling at home, while 22% said knowing their family were enjoying life in their new country. 15% of expats said successfully learning to use the local language was an important milestone for Malaysia to feel like

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home. Finally, 43% expats in Malaysia say understanding the local culture helped in feeling a stronger connection with the country.

Older expats find it easier to settle in: 35% of those over 55 years old said their host country felt like home within their first six months, which compares to 33% of 18 to 34 year olds and only 29% of 35 to 54 year olds.

These findings are being released as HSBC's 2016 Expat Explorer survey opens to respondents: <https://start.yougov.com/refer/vysfh7HYcJdChF?&source=2>

Almost 22,000 expats took part in the 2015 Expat Explorer survey, ranking Singapore the top country for expats overall, and this year HSBC is looking for even more expats to share their experiences of living abroad.

**HSBC calls all expats to say where is the best place to be an expat in 2016 by taking this survey now:**

**<https://start.yougov.com/refer/vysfh7HYcJdChF?&source=2>**

If you're living or working abroad and are 18 or over, we want to hear about your experience to help other expats navigate the opportunities and challenges of life abroad.

The 2016 Expat Explorer survey is open to all expats from now until 17 April.

The findings of the 2016 survey will be released in the autumn and available online via the interactive [Expat Explorer tool](#), where people can compare different countries using a broad set of criteria covering the main areas of expat life.

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***The Expat Explorer survey opens on 7 March and will close on 17 April 2016.***

***Click here to take part in the survey***

**<https://start.yougov.com/refer/vysfh7HYcJdChF?&source=2>**

Expats can also take part in the survey or get the latest Expat Explorer updates on:



[www.twitter.com/expatexplorer](http://www.twitter.com/expatexplorer)



[www.facebook.com/HSBCExpat](http://www.facebook.com/HSBCExpat)



[www.expatexplorer.hsbc.com](http://www.expatexplorer.hsbc.com)

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**Notes to editors**

**About the Expat Explorer survey and league table**

The Expat Explorer survey is commissioned by HSBC Expat and conducted by YouGov. The last Expat Explorer survey was completed by 21,950 expats from 198 countries through an online questionnaire in March, April and May 2015.

**About HSBC Group**

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from around 6,000 offices in 71 countries and territories in Europe, Asia, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$2,410bn at 31 December 2015, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

**About HSBC Expat**

HSBC Expat is a trading name of HSBC Bank International Limited. HSBC Expat is an award winning provider of offshore financial services, with its head office based in Jersey, Channel Islands. It also has representation in Dubai and Hong Kong. As part of HSBC Holdings plc, HSBC Expat has the experience to offer customers living and working abroad, tailored offshore financial solutions. For more information visit [www.expat.hsbc.com](http://www.expat.hsbc.com).

**About HSBC in Malaysia**

HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad was locally incorporated in 1884 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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