

March 28, 2016

## **HSBC EXPAT SURVEY: Russia is the best place to learn new skills**

- *Russia has the highest rating by expats as the best place to learn new skills*
- *Learning the local language is key to successfully integrating in Russia*
- *Russia is among top 10 countries where expats feel at home in less than a year*

Living abroad can be an exciting, challenging and occasionally daunting adventure. It provides an opportunity to realise ambitions, develop a career and build a new life and a family home in an unfamiliar, but often rewarding environment. As global mobility increases, expat life is becoming more attainable for more people. International companies continue to develop their business overseas and often offer their employees a secondment opportunity, while fast-growing and diverse economies attract people to new, exciting lives abroad. At the same time, technology has made it much easier to keep in touch with friends and family from the other side of the world.

Life as an expat can be quite an adjustment. However, Russia is among top 10 countries where expats feel at home in less than a year, according to data from the most recent HSBC Expat Explorer survey *Balancing life abroad*. 57% say it took them less than a year to feel at home compared with 48% globally.

Additionally, Russia is ranked 9<sup>th</sup> among top countries with highest “Relationships” and “Education and childcare” scores that cover expat’s relationships and the quality of childcare and education respectively.

Russia also has the highest rating (62% vs 43% of the global average) by expats as the best place to learn new skills. 62% vs 48% of the global average say Russia is also home to the most fulfilling expat jobs. Nearly half (45%) of expats in Russia praise the work culture, compared to only 20% who say it is worse than at home.

### What expats say about working abroad

Country	Work is more fulfilling	The chance to acquire new skills
<b>Global average</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Russia</b>	62%	62%
<b>Philippines</b>	57%	24%
<b>Malaysia</b>	55%	41%
<b>Indonesia</b>	54%	36%
<b>China</b>	53%	55%

This proves that moving abroad is also about learning new skills and embracing new cultures, according to expats. Globally, only 14% struggle to integrate into their local community and just 11% fail to immerse themselves in their new culture. Learning to speak the local language – another key part of acclimatising – is something 63% of expats have done.

As for Russia, learning the local language is key to successfully integrating in the country. Over seven in 10 (71%) expats in the country are learning and using Russian during their time there, compared with 55% of expats globally who are learning their new local language.

Expats prioritise improving their life and finding a new challenge, rather than looking for a quick salary increase from their move abroad, according to the findings in *Balancing life abroad*. Expats see their overseas adventure as a long-term investment in their health, skills and life experience. As a result, moving to improve job prospects is only the third most important reason for becoming an expat, followed by being sent by an existing employer and moving for the better climate.

**Commenting on the opening of the 2016 survey, Dean Blackburn, Head of HSBC Expat said:**

“It's good to reflect on 2015 results these days, when we have launched our 2016 Expat Explorer survey. Our aim is to paint a picture of expat life across a broad range of criteria which help those who plan to move or already live abroad understand how the country they live in performs compared to other destinations. The survey findings also help us to better understand our expat customers and the unique challenges they face.”

**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.

**Commenting on the opening of the 2016 survey, Dean Blackburn, Head of HSBC Expat said:**

“Painting a picture of expat life across a broad range of criteria, the annual Expat Explorer survey is an insightful and comprehensive resource for all current and prospective expats. Not only can expats find out how the country they live in performs compared to other destinations, but they can also share the real life experiences of their peers.

“The survey findings help those who plan to move or already live abroad, and help us to better understand our expat customers and the unique challenges they face. We would like to hear from even greater numbers of expats this year; their input is critical to further support and inspire the global community of those who have made the choice of a life abroad.”

*ends/more*

***The Expat Explorer survey opened 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)

**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.expats.hsbc.com](http://www.expats.hsbc.com).