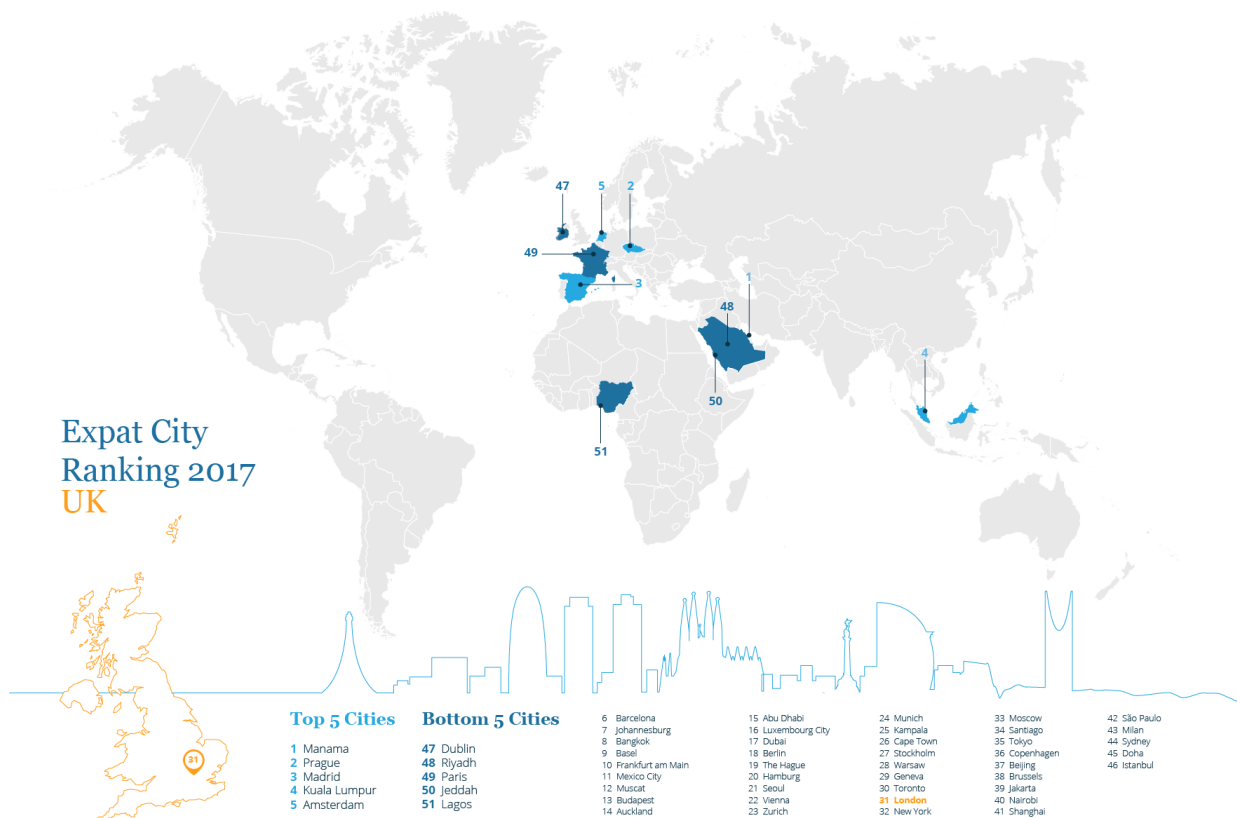


## Expatriate City Ranking 2017: London Offers Great Career Prospects, but They Come at a Cost

London ranks second for local career opportunities, but 48th out of 51 cities for cost of living.

- About one in six expats (16%) moved to London after finding a job in the city on their own.
- The UK capital is one of the worst-ranking cities for cost of living, with three-quarters of expats rating this factor negatively.
- The leisure options offered in London are generally top-notch, with 88% positive ratings.

Munich, 14 November 2017 — While London's good career opportunities may attract many foreign residents, the high cost of living and the unaffordable housing market should make them think twice before moving there. Coming in 31st out of 51 cities in this year's Expatriate City Ranking, London performs particularly low for these two factors, as the so-far unpublished [Expatriate City Ranking 2017](#) reveals. The ranking is based on data collected in the annual *Expatriate Insider* survey, conducted by [InterNations](#), the largest expatriate community worldwide. With nearly 13,000 respondents living and working abroad, *Expatriate Insider 2017* is one of the most extensive expatriate studies worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of expatriate life in 51 cities, the survey ranks them by a variety of factors from the areas quality of urban living, getting settled, urban work life, as well as finance and housing. According to all these rating factors, the top 10 cities for expats are Manama, Prague, Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Basel, and Frankfurt am Main.



## London Is a Great Place to Boost Your Career — But Expats Need a Generous Salary

Only beaten by Amsterdam, London is the second-best city for local career opportunities for expats. In fact, more than seven in ten living in the UK capital (74%) rate their local career opportunities positively, 25 percentage points more than the global average of 49 percent. *“Job opportunities and professional career development”* are some of the benefits of living in London, a Spanish expat explains. Therefore, it is hardly a surprise that nearly one out of six expats (16%) cite finding a job in London on their own as their main reason for moving there. Additionally, more than three in five expats are generally satisfied with their job (68%) as well as their job security (65%). However, not everyone finds it easy to afford life in London: more than five in six (85%) rate the affordability of housing negatively, almost twice the global average (44%). Due to London’s infamous real estate market, 41 percent even consider local housing to be very expensive. The local cost of living in general seems to trouble expats as well, with three-quarters rating this factor negatively. Once again, this result is nearly twice as high as the global average (39%). A German expat living in London complains that *“the cost of living, especially housing, is too high.”* While nearly nine in ten expats (88%) rate local leisure activities in London positively, unfortunately it seems like not everyone might be able to actually afford them.

	London
 <b>Overall City Ranking</b>	31
 <b>Quality of Urban Living Index</b>	28
 <b>Getting Settled Index</b>	24
 <b>Urban Work Life Index</b>	13
 <b>Finance &amp; Housing Index</b>	43

## Top 5 Cities Make It Easy for Expats to Get Settled and Enjoy a Great Work Life

Manama, Prague, Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, and Amsterdam top the list of the best cities for expats: while Prague lags behind on 35th place for getting settled, the other four cities receive good to excellent ratings in this respect. A South African expat living in Kuala Lumpur likes *“the easy-going temperament and friendliness of the local people”* while an expat from the Philippines appreciates the *“very friendly and helpful locals”* in Manama. The majority of expats rates the general friendliness towards foreign residents positively in Manama (84%), Amsterdam (83%), Kuala Lumpur (78%), and Madrid (74%), compared to a global average of 67 percent. Prague, however, performs below average here: only about half the expats living there (49%) are satisfied with this factor. Nonetheless, the capital of the Czech Republic is one of the top destinations for expats in 2017, particularly due to its outstanding ratings in terms of work: nearly seven in ten expats (68%) are satisfied with local career opportunities in Prague — 19 percentage points more than the global average.

## InterNations Communities in the UK

Out of 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, there are more than 176,000 InterNations members in the UK: about 95,000 of them live in London, making the capital the largest expat community in the UK, followed by Manchester, Birmingham and Edinburgh.

Learn more about the InterNations Communities in [London](#) and the [UK](#) online!

### Interested in Talking to Expats in Your City?



Visit an InterNations Official Event and personally meet expats from all over the world who will share their stories with you. Find out [here](#) when and where the next official event in your community will take place.

To receive a personal press invitation including free access to the event and interview opportunities with InterNations members, please contact [press@internations.org](mailto:press@internations.org) or +49 (0)89 461 3324 79 and let us know which event you would like to attend.

### Read More about the Expat City Ranking 2017



[The Best and Worst Cities](#)



[Quality of Urban Living](#)



[Getting Settled](#)



[Urban Work Life](#)



[Finance & Housing](#)

### About the Expat City Ranking 2017

For its annual [Expat Insider survey](#), InterNations asked about 13,000 expatriates representing 166 nationalities and living in 188 countries or territories to provide information on various aspects of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality. In 2017, the fourth year the survey was conducted, respondents were also invited to share their opinions on the city they are currently living in.

Participants were asked to rate more than 25 different aspects of urban life abroad on a scale of one to seven. The rating process emphasized the respondents' personal satisfaction with these aspects and considered both emotional topics as well as more factual aspects with equal weight. The respondents' ratings of the individual factors were then bundled in various combinations for a total of 13 subcategories, and their mean values were used to draw up four topical indices: Quality of Urban Living, Getting Settled, Urban Work Life, and Finance & Housing. These were further averaged in order to rank 51 cities worldwide. In 2017, the top 10 cities for expats are Manama, Prague, Madrid, Kuala Lumpur, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Basel, and Frankfurt am Main.

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2017, a sample size of at least 45 survey participants per city was required. In total, the responses used for the city ranking represent 7,985 expats living in 40 countries.

### About InterNations

With 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, InterNations (<http://www.internations.org>) is the largest global network and information site for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking both online and face-to-face. At around 5,000 monthly events and activities, expatriates have the opportunity to meet other global minds. Online services include country and city guides created by a team of professional writers, guest contributions about life abroad, and discussion



forums to help members with topics such as the local job or housing search. InterNations membership is by approval only to ensure we remain a community of trust.

The InterNations app is available for Android and iOS and can be downloaded for free on [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#).

Find more information about InterNations on our [press pages](#), [company website](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), or in our [Expat Magazine](#).

**Press Contact**

Vera Grossmann  
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH  
Schwanthalerstrasse 39  
80336 Munich, Germany

Tel: +49 (0)89 461 3324 79  
Fax: +49 (0)89 461 3324 99  
Email: [press@internations.org](mailto:press@internations.org)  
Homepage: [www.internations.org/press](http://www.internations.org/press)