

## Expatriate City Ranking 2017: Great Career Prospects Make Frankfurt the Best German City for Expats

Frankfurt, Munich, and Hamburg are great for a career abroad, but expats seeking an adventure rather choose Berlin.

- Berlin is the most affordable city in the world, with 73 percent rating their local cost of living positively.
- Ranking 6th out of 51 cities globally, Frankfurt is Germany's top city in terms of job and career — Munich (8th) and Hamburg (12th) are not far behind, but Berlin (28th) struggles to keep up.
- More than eight in ten expats (84%) rate the affordability of housing in Munich negatively, nearly twice the global average (44%).

Munich, 14 November 2017 — Coming in 10th place out of 51 cities worldwide in this year's Expatriate City Ranking, Frankfurt is the most popular German city among foreign residents. One of the main reasons for this outstanding result is expats' high satisfaction with the local career opportunities (65% positive ratings). While Hamburg and Munich also offer a good work life, they only rank an average 20th and 24th place in the global ranking. Berlin, on the other hand, lands on a good second place in Germany, ranking 18th overall: this is mainly due to the fulfilling social life the city has to offer, as the so-far unpublished [Expatriate City Ranking 2017](#) reveals.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 expat community worldwide. With nearly 13,000 respondents living and working abroad, *Expatriate Insider 2017* is one of the most extensive expat studies worldwide. Apart from offering an in-depth analysis of expat 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.





### Expats Work Longest Hours in Hamburg, but Are Most Satisfied with Their Career in Frankfurt

With a strong sixth place out of 51 cities around the world, Frankfurt is Germany's top city in terms of job and career. Munich (8th) and Hamburg (12th) are not lagging far behind, but Berlin struggles to keep up in 28th place. In fact, a quarter of expats in Frankfurt cite finding a job on their own as one of their motivations for moving, which was also a significant reason for expats moving to Munich (38%) and Hamburg (32%). An Italian living in Frankfurt even claims that *"if you want to find a job, there is work for all"*. An impressive 65 percent of expats in Frankfurt are satisfied with their local career prospects — this is the second-highest share in Germany after Munich (66%) and 16 percentage points more than the global average (49%). Hamburg follows close behind with 60 percent feeling the same way. However, with an average working week of 44.1 hours, expats in Hamburg work longer than in any other German city — even over three hours more than those in Berlin. Generally, the capital seems to attract more adventurous and entrepreneurial spirits. More than half of expats moving to Berlin (57%) give looking for adventure as one of their reasons, and about one in eight (12%) describe themselves as entrepreneurs or business owners. A British expat states that *"Berlin is very multicultural and attracts many young people curious about life and work"*.

### Munich Voted the Best German City for Urban Living, but Expats Live Well for Less in Berlin

According to the survey respondents, Berlin is the best city worldwide when it comes to cost of living. While Frankfurt (17th) and Hamburg (21st) do not fare too poorly for the same factor, the same cannot be said about Munich: while the Bavarian capital ranks best in Germany for its quality of urban living (7th), it is also among the ten most expensive cities in the world. In fact, 64 percent of expats in Munich are dissatisfied with the local cost of living. Over half the expats consider housing in Berlin affordable (53%), but only between two and three in ten say the same in Frankfurt (27%) and Hamburg (21%). In Munich, a mere seven percent agree! Moreover, expats in Munich are also unhappy with their social life, with the city ranking 39th out of 51. Berlin, however, seems to offer a fun lifestyle for a fraction of the cost: more than six in ten expats (61%) are happy with their social life in the city. Berlin is a *"vibrant, dynamic, international city that is very livable"*, as a US American expat describes it.

	Berlin	Frankfurt	Hamburg	Munich
 <b>Overall City Ranking</b>	18	10	20	24
 <b>Quality of Urban Living Index</b>	11	14	10	7
 <b>Getting Settled Index</b>	27	28	41	42
 <b>Urban Work Life Index</b>	16	3	11	4
 <b>Finance &amp; Housing Index</b>	34	26	36	48

### 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 Germany

Out of 2.8 million members in 390 cities around the world, there are more than 199,000 InterNations members in Germany: about 53,000 of them live in Munich, 31,000 in Berlin, 23,000 in Frankfurt and about 15,000 in Hamburg, making these cities the largest expat communities in Germany, followed by Dusseldorf, Stuttgart, and Cologne.

Learn more about the InterNations Communities in [Berlin](#), [Frankfurt](#), [Hamburg](#), [Munich](#) and [Germany](#) 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)