

## London: Excellent Career Options for Expats but Exorbitant Cost of Living

The Expat City Ranking 2020 reveals the best and worst cities for expats around the world, including London

- Out of 66 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2020, London ranks 51st. It ranks best in the Getting Settled Index (29th) and worst in the Local Cost of Living Index (62nd).
- Valencia (1st), Alicante, Lisbon, Panama City, Singapore, Málaga, Buenos Aires, Kuala Lumpur, Madrid, and Abu Dhabi (10th) are the top 10 cities for expats to live in 2020.
- On the other hand, expats consider Salmiya in Kuwait (66th), Rome, Seoul, Milan, Nairobi, Paris, Johannesburg, Santiago, Dublin, and Hong Kong (57th) the world's worst cities to live in.

Munich, 26 November 2020 — London ranks 51st in the Expat City Ranking 2020 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with around 4 million members. It ranks best — but still only slightly above average — in the Getting Settled Index (29th). The British capital receives mixed results in the Urban Work Life Index (37th) — expats are very happy with their local career opportunities but not so much with their work-life balance. While it performs somewhat below average in the Quality of Urban Living Index (49th), it does worst in the Finance & Housing (59th) and the Local Cost of Living (62nd) Indices. It even ranks among the bottom 10 worldwide for both topics.

Expat City Ranking 2020

### Expat Life in London



The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations, which is one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad, with more than 15,000 respondents in 2020. This year, 66 cities around the globe are analyzed in the survey, which offers in-depth information about five areas of expat life: Quality of Urban Living, Getting Settled, Urban Work Life,

Finance & Housing, and Local Cost of Living. Together, the first four topics make up the Expat City Ranking, which reveals the best and worst cities for expats to live in. As the data was collected in March 2020, just before COVID-19 turned into a global pandemic, one question, however, remains: Will these cities still come out on top in a post-COVID world?

## What Expats Think about Life in London

### 51. London: Excellent Career Options for Expats but Exorbitant Cost of Living

London ranks 51st out of 66 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2020, and the Finance & Housing Index (59th) is its sore point. Housing is hard to find (38% unhappy vs. 27% globally), and only 8% of expats consider it affordable (vs. 41% worldwide). Just 51% are satisfied with their financial situation in general (vs. 61% globally). *"I hate the extortionate cost of living, which results in very small living spaces,"* an Australian expat complains. In fact, London comes 62nd in the Local Cost of Living Index.

The quality of life fares little better (49th). Expats are especially worried about their safety, as only 16% feel completely safe (vs. 45% globally). Moreover, they rate the availability (51st) and the quality (57th) of healthcare rather poorly. On the plus side, 83% of expats are happy with the leisure options (vs. 71% globally).

London also provides excellent career opportunities for expats (4th), but they seem to come at a price. Nearly three in ten expats (29%) are not happy with their work-life balance (vs. 18% globally). And despite their career options, respondents are sceptical about the local economy (45th out of 66). Overall, London's ranking in the Urban Work Life Index is slightly below average (37th). It does best in the Getting Settled Index (29th): 69% consider it easy to get used to the local culture (vs. 61% globally), and 67% feel at home in London (vs. 64% worldwide).

### About the Expat City Ranking 2020

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations. For the survey, more than 15,000 expatriates representing 173 nationalities and living in 181 countries or territories provided information on various aspects of expat life. In addition to their satisfaction with life in their host country, 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, considering both emotional topics and 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 66 cities worldwide. In 2020, the top 10 cities for expats are Valencia, Alicante, Lisbon, Panama City, Singapore, Málaga, Buenos Aires, Kuala Lumpur, Madrid, and Abu Dhabi. The survey also includes a Local Cost of Living Index, which does, however, not factor into the overall ranking to avoid overrepresenting financial aspects.

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2020, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants

per city was required.

### **About InterNations**

With around 4 million members in 420 cities around the world, [InterNations](#) is the largest global community and a source of information for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking and socializing, both online and face to face. At around 6,000 events and activities per month, expatriates have the opportunity to meet other global minds. Online services include discussion forums and helpful articles with personal expat experiences, tips, and information about life abroad. Membership is by approval only to ensure we remain a community of trust. InterNations is part of the New Work SE, a group of brands that offer products and services for a better working life.

Find more information about InterNations on our [press page](#), [in our company blog](#), or in our [magazine](#).

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