

Dublin: Great Careers but a Low Quality of Life at a High Price

The Expat City Ranking 2021 reveals the best and worst cities for expats around the world, including Dublin.

- Out of 57 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2021, Dublin ranks 45th.
- Kuala Lumpur (1st), Málaga, Dubai, Sydney, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City, Prague, Mexico City, Basel, and Madrid (10th) are the top 10 cities for expats to live in 2021.
- On the other hand, expats consider Rome (57th), Milan, Johannesburg, Istanbul, Tokyo, Cairo, Paris, Maastricht, Moscow, and New York (48th) the world's worst cities to live in.

Munich, 1 December 2021 — Dublin ranks 45th out of 57 in the Expat City Ranking 2021 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with over 4 million members. While the Irish capital performs very well in terms of urban work life (3rd) and getting settled (13th), it is the worst-rated city worldwide when it comes to finance and housing (57th). Expats are also unhappy with the local cost of living (55th) and the quality of life in Dublin (54th).

Expat City Ranking 2021 Expat Life in Dublin



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 12,420 respondents in 2021. This year, 57 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.

What Expats Think about Life in Dublin

Out of 57 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2021, Dublin comes in a low 45th place. It ranks last in the **Finance & Housing Index** (57th) and second to last in the Housing Subcategory (56th), only ahead of Munich (57th). Expats find housing in Dublin neither affordable (79% vs. 39% globally) nor easy to find (62% vs. 23% globally). *"The housing crisis is a real problem; the rent is simply too high,"* a Dutch expat explains. Close to four in five (79%) also rate the local cost of living negatively (vs. 34% globally), with Dublin landing in 55th place in the **Local Cost of Living Index**.

The Irish capital does not fare much better in the **Quality of Urban Living Index** (54th), where it ranks last worldwide for both the availability and the quality of healthcare. More than one-third (34%) find the quality poor (vs. 14% globally), and 14% even say that it is *not good at all* (vs. 3% globally). Expats also rate public transportation negatively (37% vs. 20% globally), and nearly three times the global average are unhappy with the climate and weather (45% vs. 17% globally).

Dublin does considerably better in the **Getting Settled Index** (13th). Close to nine in ten (86%) describe the local residents as generally friendly (vs. 69% globally), and 77% find it easy to get used to the local culture (vs. 65% globally). *"Ireland's best asset is the Irish people themselves,"* shares a US American expat. *"They are kind, friendly, and open."* Maybe this is why 55% also find it easy to make new friends (vs. 48% globally). In the end, Dublin performs best in the **Urban Work Life Index** (3rd), even coming 1st for both local career opportunities (79% happy vs. 45% globally) and job security (84% vs. 61% globally). Expats are also satisfied with their work-life balance (75% vs. 66% globally).

About the Expat City Ranking 2021

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations. For the survey, InterNations asked 12,420 expats representing 174 nationalities and living in 186 countries or territories to provide information on various aspects of expat life, as well as their gender, age, and nationality. 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 all cities worldwide that had the required number of participants for the minimum sample size. (The survey also includes a Local Cost of Living Index, which does, however, not factor into the overall ranking to avoid overrepresenting financial aspects.) In 2021, the top 10 cities for expats are Kuala Lumpur (1st), Málaga, Dubai, Sydney, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City, Prague, Mexico City, Basel, and Madrid (10th).

For a city to be featured in the Expat City Ranking 2021, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per city was required. In total, 57 cities met this requirement.

About InterNations

With more than 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.

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Press Contact

Stephanie Anko-Hubik
Media Spokesperson

InterNations GmbH
Schwanthalerstrasse 39
80336 Munich, Germany

Email: press@internations.org
Homepage: <https://www.internations.org/press>