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SAN FRANCISCO AND LONDON LEAD THE WAY FOR EXPAT JOB OPPORTUNITIES WHILE BERLIN SHINES AS THE WORLD'S CULTURE HOTSPOT

- San Francisco is ranked as the best city in the world for expat job opportunities
- Mumbai is the best destination for high expat earnings
- Berlin, Buenos Aires, London, New York and Paris are the world's top cultural hotspots

Cities in the UK and the US lead the rest of the world when it comes to expat job opportunities, according to the latest HSBC Expat Explorer survey, the world's largest and longest running study of expat life.

The survey, which looks at the range of factors expats consider when deciding on their move abroad, found that expats in San Francisco are the most likely in the world to say their city offers fantastic job opportunities, followed by London, New York, Dublin and Birmingham.

Top cities for expat job opportunities	
Rank	City
1	San Francisco
2	London
3	New York
4	Dublin
5	Birmingham

1. San Francisco

With a booming economy and leading position in the tech world, San Francisco, home to Silicon Valley, has the second highest proportion of expats working in the technology sector in the HSBC survey (behind Dublin). The majority (57%) of expats in San Francisco rate it as having fantastic job opportunities – well above the global average of 25% – making it the top-scoring city in the survey.

Although being an expensive city, with no respondents describing it as affordable, San Francisco offers the second highest average expat income in the world at USD207,227 which allows expats to enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. Indeed, half (50%) of expats in San Francisco are now living in a better property and 42% drive a better car than they did at home, more than in any other city in the top five.

2. London

Closely following San Francisco as a city famous for being a magnet for international talent, is London. Nearly half (49%) of expats cite excellent job opportunities in the UK's capital as one of the top three things the city offers. Despite the cost of living in London being high, with only 1% of expats citing it as affordable, expat salaries are above the global average (USD99,903) at USD107,863.

The average expat salary in London is all the more impressive given that the city has the second highest proportion (52%) of millennial expats (18 to 35 year-olds) in our survey. However, London salaries are not enough to help many expats get

on the property ladder, with just 24% of expats in London owning property in the UK (compared to global average of 37%).

3. New York

In New York, the home of Wall Street is a big draw for talented financial services professionals. A third (32%) of New York expats surveyed work in financial services, the third highest proportion to work in that sector worldwide.

Despite the great job opportunities and an average income of USD182,240, the fast-paced professional life has trade-offs. Only 40% of expats here are more physically active than they were in their home country compared to 55% in San Francisco. Furthermore, only 30% say their physical health is better than it would be in their home country.

4. Dublin

Dublin comes fourth for expat job opportunities in the survey, suggesting that the European home of international tech giants like Google, Facebook and Amazon is attracting some of the world's brightest international talent. In fact, 39% of the expats surveyed here work in technology, the highest proportion worldwide.

Despite the stature of the tech companies based in Dublin, expat salaries come in slightly below the global average with expats in Dublin earning on average USD91,419. Indeed a sizeable proportion (27%) of expats in Dublin have less disposable income than they did at home. However, this is more than made up for by Dublin's social scene. Almost two-thirds (61%) of expats in the Irish capital say their work/life balance has improved since moving there, and the city is in the top 10 rated for a vibrant cultural scene.

5. Birmingham

Rounding out the top five cities for expat job opportunities is Birmingham in the UK. Not only do expats say that Birmingham is good for their career, they also say that their money goes further there. Although expats in Birmingham earn on average USD61,950 (USD37,953 below the global average, more than half (51%) praise its affordable cost of living. As a result, 57% of expats in the city enjoy more disposable income than they did at home.

Meanwhile, for expats looking for high earnings, east is the direction to travel, with Asian cities making up four of the top 10 when it comes to the largest expat pay cheques. India's commercial centre of Mumbai is home to the highest paid expats in the survey, earning an average annual income of USD217,165. Shanghai comes fourth with an average expat income of USD202,211, Jakarta eighth at USD152,589 and Hong Kong ninth at USD148,410.

The world's best cities for expat lifestyle and culture

Expats are looking for more than just the job opportunity or high earnings. Worldwide, expats moving to a new country also embrace the chances to integrate with locals and exchange cultures, skills and ideas. From this aspect, Berlin, Buenos Aires, London, New York and Paris are the world's top cultural hotspots.

Home to more than 700 art galleries by day and a world-famous techno music scene by night, expat Berliners of all backgrounds can find something to love in the city. An impressive 70% of expats living in **Berlin** say it has a vibrant cultural scene. The once-divided city is now among the most open with more than half (55%) of expats saying Berlin welcomes diversity, the third highest-scoring city in Europe (after Stockholm and Lisbon).

Second in the cultural hotspot rankings is the ‘Paris of South America’, **Buenos Aires**. Argentina’s cosmopolitan capital city is known around the world for its stately 19th century buildings and rich history. Expats living there relish these cultural opportunities, with 45% rating its rich and diverse sightseeing and 67% appreciating the vibrant cultural scene in the city. They also enjoy the culture through the Argentine culinary scene, with 44% citing its great restaurants and quality of food, outscoring Spain’s food capital Barcelona (42%) and Hong Kong (35%).

All famous cities for art, fashion, gastronomy and culture, **London, Paris** and **New York** round out the top five expat culture hotspots. Across all three cities (62% of expats in London and 61% of expats in Paris and New York), expats appreciate the vibrant culture. Paris comes top for sightseeing, with 62% of expats there praising the richness and diversity of its sights. The Parisian experience beats other well-known cities such as Barcelona, London and Mexico City.

Dean Blackburn, Head of HSBC Expat, comments:

“It is no secret that the world’s global cities rely on expat talent to drive their economies. The financial and technology hubs of the USA and the UK are the most attractive for ambitious expats eager to push their career to the next level, but there is a city out there for every expat.

“Many expats measure the success of their experience abroad through the savings they can put away for the future while others see it as a stepping stone to developing new skills. Some cities are a treasure trove of new experiences and others serve as hubs for expats to explore.

“Whatever their priorities, expats should plan ahead to make sure they achieve their ambitions and make the most of their experience abroad.”

All expats are invited to share their experience of living abroad by taking the 2018 [Expat Explorer survey online](#).

Expat Explorer online:

Report and country comparisons: <https://expatexplorer.hsbc.com/survey/>

Tweet @: www.twitter.com/expatexplorer

Facebook: www.facebook.com/hsbcexpat

Expat experiences blog: www.expatexplorer.blogspot.com/

Expats’ ratings of 46 host countries are available to explore online through the [Expat Explorer interactive tool](#).

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Note to editors:**About the Expat Explorer survey**

The Expat Explorer survey was open to adults over 18 years old currently living away from their country of origin/home country.

The survey was completed by 27,587 expats from 159 countries and territories through an online questionnaire in March and April 2017, conducted by YouGov and commissioned by HSBC Expat. With a minimum sample of 90 expat respondents required, 52 cities were included in the data analysis.

HSBC Holdings plc

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from around 3,900 offices in 67 countries and territories in Europe, Asia, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$2,522bn at 31 December 2017, 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 expat 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 tailored financial solutions to customers living and working abroad. For more information visit: www.expats.hsb.com.

HSBC Bank (Vietnam) Ltd.

HSBC has been in Vietnam for more than 140 years – the bank first opened an office in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) in 1870. HSBC was the first foreign bank to launch its locally incorporated entity on 1 January 2009 as HSBC Bank (Vietnam) Ltd. The bank's current network includes two branches and five transaction offices in Ho Chi Minh City, one branch and four transaction offices in Hanoi, and two full-service branches in Binh Duong and Da Nang. HSBC is one of the largest foreign banks in the country in terms of investment capital, product range, and customer base.

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