

## Expats Enjoy Their Career Opportunities in London and Dublin but Life Comes at a High Cost

The annual Expat City Ranking reveals how expats rate life in 82 cities around the world, including London and Dublin.

- *Dublin (72nd) and London (70th) just barely escape the bottom 10 cities worldwide in the Expat City Ranking 2019.*
- *Based on the ranking, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Montréal, Lisbon, Barcelona, Zug, The Hague, and Basel are the best cities to move to in 2020.*
- *Kuwait City (82nd), Rome, Milan, Lagos (Nigeria), Paris, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Lima, New York City, and Yangon (73rd) are the world's worst cities.*

Munich, 3 December 2019 — London and Dublin rank very close to the bottom 10 out of the 82 cities that are featured in the Expat City Ranking 2019 by [InterNations](#), the world's largest expat community with more than 3.5 million members. Expats consider both cities to be good for career opportunities, but bad when it comes to the local cost of living. Although Dublin's overall ranking (72nd) is slightly worse than London's (70th), it ranks far ahead of London in the Urban Work Life Index. On the other hand, London outperforms Dublin slightly in terms of quality of life and the Finance & Housing Index.

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual *Expat Insider* survey by InterNations, which is with more than 20,000 respondents in 2019 one of the most extensive surveys about living and working abroad. In 2019, 82 cities around the globe are analyzed in the survey, offering 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. Taken together, the first four areas make up the Expat City Ranking, which reveals the best and worst cities to move to in 2020.

## What Expats Think about Life in London and Dublin

### 70. London

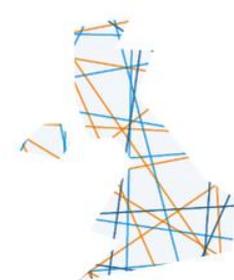
Coming in 70th out of 82 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2019, London is very close to the ten worst expat cities. The capital of the UK performs weakest in the Local Cost of Living Index (74th): more than five in seven survey participants (72%) find the local costs too high (vs. 38% globally). The same is true for the Finance & Housing Index (69th): expats have trouble finding affordable accommodation (78% negative responses vs. 44% globally) and are dissatisfied with their financial situation (34% vs. 26% globally). Within the Quality of Urban Living Index (61st), only three in five expats (60%) feel safe in London (vs. 81% globally). Additionally, more than a fifth of the respondents (21%) are unhappy with the available healthcare (vs. 13% globally). *"I worry about my safety, the crime rate, and the bad healthcare service,"* an Italian expat reports. On the upside, most expats (81%) are happy with the local leisure options (vs. 74% globally).

London performs best in the Getting Settled Index, though its 46th place is still mediocre: more than two in three expats (68%) find it is easy to get used to the local culture, which is just above the global average (62%). *"The cultural diversity, the amount of opportunities to try new things and meet different people — those are the things I like about London,"* says a Czech expat. Still, just about half of the respondents find the locals generally friendly (49% vs. 64% globally) and friendly towards foreign

residents (52% vs. 64%). Maybe this is why the share of expats feeling at home in London is slightly smaller than the global share (60% vs. 64% globally). London also does not rank high in the Urban Work Life Index (52nd) either, with every third respondent (33%) unhappy with their work-life balance (vs. 21% globally), and 20% of expats rating the state of the local economy negatively (vs. 15% globally). However, nearly three-quarters of the survey participants (73%) are happy with the local career opportunities (vs. 51% globally).

Expat City Ranking 2019

## Expat Life in London



**Quality of Urban Living Index**  
61st

57th Leisure & Climate  
37th Transportation  
70th Safety & Politics  
58th Health & Environment



**Urban Work Life Index**  
52nd

13th Job & Career  
60th Job Security  
70th Work-Life Balance



**Getting Settled Index**  
46th

61st Local Friendliness  
44th Feeling Welcome  
57th Friends & Socializing  
39th Local Language



**Finance & Housing Index**  
69th

69th Finance  
65th Housing



**Local Cost of Living Index**  
74th



## 72. Dublin

Dublin, which ranks 72nd in the Expat City Ranking 2019, lands in the bottom 10 for two indices, but also in the top 10 for another. The city comes in last in the world for finance and housing (82nd). Expats are especially dissatisfied with the affordability of housing (88% negative responses vs. 44% globally) and have trouble finding a place to live in (86% find it difficult vs. 32% globally). Also, 30% of expats in Dublin are unhappy with their financial situation (vs. 26% globally). Almost three-quarters of the survey participants (73%) rate the local cost of living negatively (vs. 38% globally), leaving Dublin to rank 76th place worldwide in this index. *"The cost of living is a turnoff,"* says a Brazilian expat, *"and finding an apartment is a nightmare."* Within the Quality of Urban Living Index (71st), only 46% of expats are satisfied with the availability of healthcare (vs. 73% globally), and 39% of Dublin's expats are dissatisfied with the quality of medical care (vs. 18% globally).

However, Dublin receives its best results in the Urban Work Life Index (8th): four in five respondents (80%) are happy with the job security (vs. 59% globally). *"I like the job opportunities and that I have a better-paid job here,"* states an expat from Romanian. In fact, three-quarters of expats (75%) rate the career opportunities in Dublin favorably (vs. 51% globally). The Irish capital ranks fourth in the world for this factor, only behind Boston (1st), San Francisco (2nd), and Prague (3rd). Expats also consider the locals friendly towards foreign residents (80% positive responses vs. 64% globally) and find it easy

to get used to Dublin's culture (73% vs. 62% globally), landing Dublin in 27th place worldwide in the Getting Settled Index.

Expat City Ranking 2019

## Expat Life in Dublin



### Quality of Urban Living Index

71st

80th Leisure & Climate  
70th Transportation  
46th Safety & Politics  
71st Health & Environment



### Urban Work Life Index

8th

3rd Job & Career  
21st Job Security  
21st Work-Life Balance



### Getting Settled Index

27th

16th Local Friendliness  
34th Feeling Welcome  
41st Friends & Socializing  
34th Local Language



### Finance & Housing Index

82nd

65th Finance  
82nd Housing



### Local Cost of Living Index

76th



### About the Expat City Ranking 2019

The [Expat City Ranking](#) is based on the annual [Expat Insider survey](#) by InterNations. For the survey, more than 20,000 expatriates representing 178 nationalities and living in 187 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 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 82 cities worldwide. In 2019, the top 10 cities for expats are Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Montréal, Lisbon, Barcelona, Zug, The Hague, and Basel. 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 2019, a sample size of at least 50 survey participants per city was required.

### **About InterNations**

With more than 3.5 million members in 420 cities around the world, InterNations ([www.internations.org](http://www.internations.org)) is the largest global community and information site for people who live and work abroad. InterNations offers global and local networking both online and face-to-face. At around 6,000 official events and activities per month, 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.

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

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