

School search

Finding the right school for children in another country can be a stressful experience for parents.

Making the right choice has long term consequences for children's education and wellbeing. The support available from specialist school search and education consultants can prove to be invaluable.

Research indicates that identifying and arranging suitable education for children is one of the top ten most stressful events experienced by international assignees when relocating abroad.

THE NEED FOR SCHOOL SEARCH ASSISTANCE

When international relocation involves moving family members, locating an appropriate school for the children becomes the top priority as families cannot agree on the location of where their housing options might be until the school places are secured.

Living in temporary accommodation can act as a stop gap but is not ideal for those with children who need to settle in and achieve a structured routine. While

employees are taking time to try to find appropriate schooling, their focus on their employment duties can be affected. Employee productivity rests upon settling in quickly and effectively.

Help with finding schools is considered to be invaluable by international assignees. The use of school search and education consultants with expert local knowledge can help to provide both a positive employee experience and assist the business to reap the reward of higher assignee productivity.

TOO MANY CHOICES?

Established international assignment destinations may offer a wide variety of school options for relocating families making it difficult to reach the right decision. Many schools may appear appropriate and choosing between them can prove difficult.

Identifying suitable schools that offer an appropriate curriculum presents another issue for relocating parents.

By meeting with the family and assessing children's needs, school search/education consultants can help match each child to a school's ethos and curriculum.

TOO LITTLE CHOICE?

Newly emerging economies and more remote or challenging locations may offer little in the way of choice resulting in a stressful period while education possibilities are evaluated. Personal tutoring and online educational provision might be a possibility with options identified by local experts.

Moving part way though the school year can prove to be especially problematic should parents find that school places have already been filled. School search/education consultants can be particularly valuable in assisting

with admissions. They are experienced in dealing with schools directly and facilitating the entrance processes.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Children with special educational needs may require specialist education facilities. Parents can be assisted by expert consultants to identify how individual needs can best be addressed through available educational provision.

ORGANISATIONAL POLICY SUPPORT

Organisational international assignment policies will typically contain some support for children's education. Funds may be made available for parents to use on specialist educational services. Organisations might have preferred suppliers in place or local contacts who can provide school search/education services to relocating parents.

School search consultants typically will have links with other suppliers who offer home search services. In some cases, consultancy firms offer both school and home search within a package of destination services. This is valuable as it means that school and home search activities can operate in tandem, helping to speed up the settling-in process.

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