

Education options for relocating families

When families relocate internationally there is a range of education options that are potentially available. These include face-to-face education in the host country or home country, as well as remote/online education as the main form delivery or as supplementary support.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

The provision of education via independent/private international schools is growing. International schools often follow curricula such as the International Baccalaureate (IB) which is an internationally recognised qualification. The IB is particularly useful to provide continuity in education for globally mobile families. It is also well recognised by tertiary education establishments.

Some international schools run a number of curricula, including home country curricula where there are

sufficient numbers of children from a particular country to make such an offering educationally and financially feasible.

International schools are cognisant that their pupils are likely to be relocated at times that do not coincide with the start of the school year or term and are usually able to accommodate this.

HOME NATIONALITY CURRICULUM SCHOOLS

If the destination location has a school following the home country curriculum, parents may wish to place their children there. Major world cities may have independent/private home nationality schools, such as American Schools, which could well suit children from families coming from and planning to return to that country. These might be day or boarding schools.

LOCAL STATE SCHOOLS

The use of local state schools provides another option for relocating families but language and curriculum differences must be factored into any decision made to use such facilities.

Parents' relocations do not always coincide with academic years and gaining places part way through a school year when schools are likely to be full will probably be difficult.

Some advantages of using a local state school include children gaining linguistic and cultural competence. The reduced cost compared with independent schools is also a factor to consider. However, cost savings should not be viewed as a deciding factor if it is likely that children's education and wellbeing will be compromised.

HOME COUNTRY BOARDING

It has become less common for parents to choose to leave their children at

home in boarding schools, preferring to be accompanied by them on their assignments. Notwithstanding this, boarding schools can provide a means of ensuring continuity of education following the home country's curriculum.

Boarding may be required if the host country destination is remote, dangerous or challenging and/or if no local education facilities are available for particular educational ages/stages.

ONLINE SCHOOLS

The use of technology to deliver education has grown considerably in recent years. Hence, educational institutions that deliver curricula online may be considered. This might prove to be a very helpful option if the family are based in a remote location or if there are no places available in establishments offering face-to-face teaching. Such specialist education providers can deliver lessons across time zones and also offer extra-curricular activities online.

ONLINE TUTORING

To bridge gaps while awaiting a school place, as a supplement to school delivery and/or to study subjects not offered in the chosen school, online tutoring can be used.

To access the Mini Factsheet series visit thinkglobalpeople.com and find out about events, webinars and podcasts. Contact us info@thinkglobalpeople.com

For comprehensive information on International Education & Schools visit our sister website relocateglobal.com

