

Working Abroad

If your dream is to travel, experience other cultures or start a new life in another country, an overseas job may be the choice for you. While there are many things to know about how to apply for a job abroad, technology makes it easier to find work opportunities in other countries.

What is it?

We live in a world where travel is accessible to all and sought after skills are highly transferable. There are many opportunities to work abroad for either a fixed or indefinite amount of time and this factsheet will provide an overview of some of the things you'll need to consider.

Research the countries you wish to work in. Determine what skills are in demand to make sure there is a good fit to what you can offer. Then you'll need to find out practical information like what kind of visas and immunisations you'll need to relocate there. Try to establish what the culture is like and average living conditions. Work out what the cost of living is to make sure you get a job that pays sufficient to live comfortably. Be familiar with safety information, medical facilities and travel alerts.

Contact the Embassy of the country you wish to work in. Find out what is needed to enter the country and relocate there.

Check what vaccinations are required. You don't always need vaccinations if you're travelling abroad, it will depend on where and when you're travelling and what activities you plan to do. The website www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk has vaccination information for every country in the world. Get advice about vaccinations at least 8 weeks before you travel, as some vaccinations need to be given well in advance for them to work properly.

Apply for a passport and visa. Many overseas jobs will not consider you unless you already have these items. The Embassy of the country you want to work in will provide visa application information.

Learn the language. You may not need to be fluent in the local language to get a job, but having a command of basic phrases will make life abroad easier. Remember there are two barriers when it comes to a language that isn't English: yours and theirs!

Search for international job postings on regular job sites and international sites. Most regular job boards include international listings, larger recruitment consultants have international offices and most international organisations will list all of their available jobs across their different locations. Applying for an overseas job is similar to applying for any job in that employers are looking for a good fit between your skills and the job requirements.

Banking. Make sure your salary is paid to you correctly by setting up an overseas bank account as soon as possible, preferably before you leave.

Have some reserve money for emergencies. In case your pay doesn't come through as expected or you get taxed more than you expected.

Make sure you have sufficient health insurance cover. Get fully covered in the country you move to either with your company or independently. The UK government has reciprocal healthcare arrangements with most European countries. If you're going to be working in a European Economic Area (EEA) country, you need to get an EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) in order to receive healthcare, which will either be free or reduced cost treatment.

Prepare your paperwork. Ensure you have all necessary copies of visas, work permits, certificates etc. Make sure you can access copies quickly and easily in case you lose any of them, as it will help with the replacement process.

Tell the government you're leaving. Get in touch with key government departments (especially HMRC) to make sure that any issues relating to tax, National Insurance, pensions etc are managed. Refer to the list of contacts at www.gov.uk/moving-or-retiring-abroad as to whom you should inform.

Integrate with the local community. Be prepared for culture shock, it's natural but make the most of your new country by being open to new experiences and learning from the locals.

Why is it important to me?

There's a lot to think about when considering working abroad. This document doesn't cover everything but hopefully it help you think about the typical issues involved.

IQ has a network of **international offices** to help support people working in the quarrying and mineral products industry around the world. We think that working abroad presents a huge opportunity for individual development both personally and professionally. This is why it features on our **Skills Wheel** which captures all the key skill and knowledge areas we believe are vital to successful career development in the industry.

Where Next?

Useful websites with further information:

Official Government Website: www.gov.uk has a wealth of information about moving or working abroad.

Vaccination Information: www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk for up to date information about what is needed to travel safely in different countries.

European Health Insurance Card – find out where it can be used and how to apply for one at:

www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcareabroad/EHIC/Pages/about-the-ehic.aspx.

Discover how our Quarry Face, Paul Clark, is finding working abroad:

<https://www.quarrying.org/careers/quarry-faces/paul-clark>

Institute of Quarrying

IQ supports professionals working within the quarrying and minerals products industry through membership and training. These factsheets are produced across a range of topics to share ideas and best practice. Further information can be found via the resources section on the IQ website www.quarrying.org.