

A NEW LIFE ABROAD

You are going to read an article about moving to another country. For each question 43-52 choose one of the paragraph (A-D). You can choose the paragraphs more than once.

Which paragraph

- comments on the difficulty of fitting into another country? 43 _____
- states that it isn't necessarily easier to meet new people? 44 _____
- recommend getting help with accommodation? 45 _____
- suggests that our past experiences often determine how we behave? 46 _____
- says that it is sensible to move to a country for a short period to begin with? 47 _____
- suggests that there is an advantage to moving on your own? 48 _____
- gives an example of how living abroad can be cheaper? 49 _____
- argues that employment in another country can be profitable? 50 _____
- recommends maintaining financial interests at home? 51 _____
- Argues that people living abroad become more open-minded? 52 _____



Many of us dream of starting a new life abroad. But is the reality as good as the dream?

A

The promise of a better quality of life is often quoted as the main reason for moving abroad. The possibility of making new friends, of spending more time with the family and having more opportunities for leisure activities are examples of how people believe this may be achieved. However, the hope of a better life is often difficult to realize. When you take off to another country, you take your emotional baggage with you. Why should it be easier to make friends in a strange culture? Why should life in another country offer you the freedom to spend more time with your family? Would you really become a more active person simply by living abroad? Advice to those with this ambition is to be clear about what you want and why moving abroad is the answer.

B

The need to find work is a major reason for moving to another country. Taking up a position abroad can offer exciting challenges and result in better working conditions and remuneration. If you class yourself as a potential occupational migrant, the advice is to secure a position before you move, making sure contracts have been read, agreed and signed on both sides. Experts also recommend testing the water first by taking up seasonal work such as a summer job or a short-term contract to get a feel for the country and the experience of working abroad. It can also be useful if your employer can find you somewhere to live, or is willing to subsidize your housing costs, even on a temporary basis.

C

Students are another group for whom the idea of spending time abroad is appealing. As entry into university becomes more competitive, students are more willing to consider doing a course in another country.

Many universities target international students, indeed many of them depend on the income such students bring in. Courses abroad could be more suited to your interests. What is more, living abroad and gaining experience of another culture can make you more valuable to future employers. Opportunities in both work and your social life open up dramatically as your circle of contacts grows. Relocating on your own, without friends and family, will force you to get out and meet new people. And, of course, it is generally accepted that people who live abroad become more tolerant and appreciative of other cultures. Advice to anyone looking into this option but wary of doing an entire degree abroad is to consider a course that offers one year abroad as part of the overall degree.

D

Enjoying retirement is another motivation for moving abroad. The idea of spending your later years somewhere warm and sunny is popular with many people from colder climates and a lifetime of savings can often last longer, if you move to a country with a lower standard of living. Decisions on where to go are often made on the basis of a favorite summer holiday destination. However, does a two-week holiday really give you a clear idea of the consequences of uprooting and relocating abroad? Many people returning home after a failed attempt at emigration cite missing friends and family as a major cause of unhappiness. And, of course, healthcare becomes a major cause for concern for senior citizens; not having a clear idea of what you are entitled to can also lead to disappointment. Experts advise anyone thinking of moving abroad to avoid selling their homes. They recommend renting properties out instead so that there is something to return to should things go wrong.