



How to access a school BEFORE you move abroad

YOU are here because...

Your family has been given the opportunity of a lifetime, to venture and live in a foreign country for a while. You've analysed the financial gains or your amazing opportunity for promotion and it feels like you have won the lottery!

YET, there's one big hurdle to jump:

Finding a **school** for your child!!!

Let me guess some of the questions on your mind right now:

"I want not just a 'good' school, but the BEST school in town for my children."

"I want teachers from the UK or US with comparable academic standards. I don't care how much the school fees might be, I just need a school which mirrors what we have back home."





"How can I be sure that this school's management knows what they're doing?"

"I need a school that will inform me step by step where my kids are academically, how I can help them further and what they need to ensure a successful academic year. I need solid communication and no end of year surprises."

"How can I be sure that a school that looks wonderful on the Internet is what I want for my children, since I cannot visit it beforehand?"

Well, I'm giving you two options:

1. Write to us at senida.kiehl@eeeaward.com and ask our consultants for information on the best schools in the country you're thinking of moving to. Chances are that:
 - We already have this information on hand, or
 - We know where to look for it, or
 - We can introduce you to people who can help you





2. DIY solution! Yes, it is possible to know if a school is right for you, if you know which questions to ask. Please, scroll down to find out how to assess a school yourself, before moving to a foreign country.

The team of Excellence in Expat Education have identified four areas of concern when deciding on the best school for your children. They are F.A.M.E., aka:

- Facilities
- Academics
- Management
- Expat Support

If you find a school which ticks all boxes in these four areas, you have a guarantee that the school is what you'd like your children to attend. Otherwise, you need to look elsewhere. Trust these questions, they are vital and give you a comprehensive amount of information to create a reliable school profile. So, pick up the phone and try to get answers to the following questions.

Are you ready???





Facilities

- ✓ What courts, fields and pool(s) does the school have?
- ✓ How often do children get to practice in those facilities?
- ✓ Are they used for after-school-activities?
- ✓ Are there specialized classrooms for certain subjects? Like labs, drama studios, cooking areas, music halls, etc.
- ✓ Are facilities monitored in order to keep the school safe and the children cared for?
- ✓ Are the classrooms equipped with the latest technology?
- ✓ Are there enough units for each child to practice in, or are they expected to share?
- ✓ What about a first-aid unit?
- ✓ What about transportation to and from school? How is that monitored, how is the safety of the children ensured?



Academics

- ✓ Who will be my children's teachers?
- ✓ What are the minimum qualifications and experience needed to teach in the school?
- ✓ What are the teachers' nationalities?
- ✓ Are students challenged and encouraged to be academically competitive, creative and reach out of their comfort zones? How?
- ✓ Are teachers competent and up to date with the latest professional development standards specific to their subjects?
- ✓ Do teachers get professional development support?
- ✓ Are the children happy to come to school? It is as simple as that!
- ✓ Is learning student-oriented and considers the diversity of cognitive development in each class?
- ✓ Are teachers prepared to reach out to each child in their class according to their individual needs?
- ✓ Is there extra language support for children whose first language is not the language of the school?



Management

- ✓ Are there policies in place, such as anti-bullying or mindfulness, that guarantee an inclusive environment of respect, cooperation and compassion?
- ✓ How many nationalities are there in the school?
- ✓ Does the management observe their academic staff in order to guarantee maximum teacher competence and effectiveness?
- ✓ What communication strategies are there in place to keep parents abreast of their children's progress?
- ✓ Are there open-door policies that guarantee parents direct access to management?
- ✓ Does the school advice on university choices?
- ✓ Does the school accept SEN (special educational needs) students?
- ✓ Is there an admission assessment?
- ✓ Are vaccines mandatory?
- ✓ What's the behaviour policy?



Expat Support

- ✓ Is there a welcome board to help new parents integrate into 'the family'?
- ✓ What direct communication methods can parents use to reach their child's teacher and the rest of school personnel?
- ✓ Are there opportunities for parents to be directly involved in school life?
- ✓ How does the school help parents who might not speak the language of the school/country in which they live?
- ✓ Does the school have a PTA (parent/teacher association)?
- ✓ Any charity or volunteering work?
- ✓ Is there a newsletter to communicate important dates and student successes?
- ✓ How do I book a place at your school?
- ✓ Is there a digital platform to access in case distance learning is necessary?



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Conclusion

Trust **your** interviewing skills to find out the most essential information about a school in a foreign country or trust the consultants from **Excellence in Expat Education** to give you a hand. Either way, rest assured that there are wonderful schools around the world and with us by your side, you'll be in safe hands!

Best wishes,



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