

# HOW TO ASSESS A SCHOOL BEFORE MOVING ABROAD





"A MIND WHEN STRETCHED BY A NEW  
IDEA NEVER REGAINS ITS ORIGINAL  
DIMENSIONS" .~ ANONYMOUS .



You are likely here because your family have just been given the **opportunity of a lifetime**, to venture and **LIVE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY!** You've analysed all the financial and/or career benefits this great chance brings your family and it feels like you have just **won the lottery!**

There's just one remaining question for this move:  
***what about your children's school?***

**I get it.** I've been **EXACTLY** where you are. Some of my most urgent questions were:

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

**"I want teachers with the same academic standards of the UK or US. 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 consistently inform me about my kids' academic performance, that will tell me whether they need anything to ensure a successful academic year. I need solid communication systems with no end-of-year surprises!"**

**"How can I be sure that the school I see on the internet that looks perfect, is really what I want for my children, since I cannot visit it beforehand?"**





HI, I'M  
SENIDA KIEHL,

FOUNDER OF EXCELLENCE IN  
EXPAT EDUCATION AWARDS

- **Mom of Hugo.**
- **Packed up and moved my family 7 times to 4 countries in the past 13 years**
- **Educator for 20 years**
- **54 passport stamps**
- **Replaced our luggage 2 times**




As my husband and I prepared for each of our international moves, I wanted to be sure our children would be in the best schools for them. I wanted them to attend schools that offered excellent international education, so that they will be able to attend university in the EU or the USA. I also wanted schools that met our expectations for safety, that looked after the “whole child” and that offered support to my family as we transitioned to life in a new country.

***And I learned, we were not alone in this search for educational excellence.***

Expat parents report that finding the BEST schools for their children is their greatest challenge for their move abroad. It was this, combined with my own personal experiences as an expat parent and an educator myself, that led me to create the Excellent in Expat Education and EEE Award. My passion is to help parents like you, source the EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE your child deserves, no matter where your passport takes you!



A view from an airplane window. The wing of the plane is visible on the left. Outside the window, there is a sunset over a range of mountains. Below the mountains, a coastal town is visible, with buildings and a body of water. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

*"Travel is like an endless  
university. You never stop  
learning."*

*~ Harvey Lloyd*





## "WE'VE GOT TWO EASY-PEESY SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR SEARCH..."

1. **Email us at [senida.kiehl@eeeaward.com](mailto: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 at 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. The team of Excellence in Expat Education have identified 4 areas of concern when deciding on the BEST school for your children: F.A.M.E.



# F.A.M.E.

## What You Must Know About Your Child's School

If you find a school which ticks **ALL** boxes in these four areas, you have an almost certain **GUARANTEE** that the school is what you'd like for your child. If not, you definitely need to look elsewhere. Trust these questions; they are vital and complete a **RELIABLE** school profile. So, pick up the phone and find the **FAME** for your child! **Are you ready? Let's get to it!**

## FACILITIES

What courts, fields, pool does the school have? How often do children get to practice on 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 on, 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 insured?

## ACADEMICS

Who will be my children's teachers? What's the minimum qualifications and experience needed to teach here? What's the teachers' nationality? Are students challenged and encouraged to be academically competitive, creative and reach out of their comfort zone? How? Are teachers competent and up to date with the latest professional development standards specific to their subject? Do teachers get professional developmental support? Are children happy to come to school? Is learning, student-oriented and considers the diversity of cognitive development in each class? Are teachers prepared to reach out to each child 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 which 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 on track regarding their children's progress? What about open-doors policies, which would guarantee direct access to management? Does the school advice on choice of university? Does the school accept SEN (special education needs) students? Is there an admission assessment?Are there mandatory vaccines? What's the behaviour policy?

## EXPAT SUPPORT

Is there a welcoming 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 the school personnel? Are there any opportunities for parents to be directly involved in the school life? How does the school help parents, who might not speak the language of the school/ country they live in? Does the school have a PTA (parents- teachers- association)? Any charity or volunteering work? Is there a newsletter to communicateimportant dates and student successes? What should I do to book a place at your school? Is there a digital platform to access in case distance learning was necessary?





# DO YOUR OWN HOMEWORK OR LET US DO IT FOR YOU

Trust your interviewing skills to find out the most essential information about a school in a foreign country OR trust our proven EXCELLENCE IN EXPAT EDUCATION consultants to give you a hand.

Either way,

Rest assured that there are indeed truly wonderful schools around the world, and with us by your side, you and your children's education will be in EXCELLENT hands!

Senida Kiehl  
Founder  
EEE Awards



EXCELLENCE  
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EXPAT EDUCATION

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