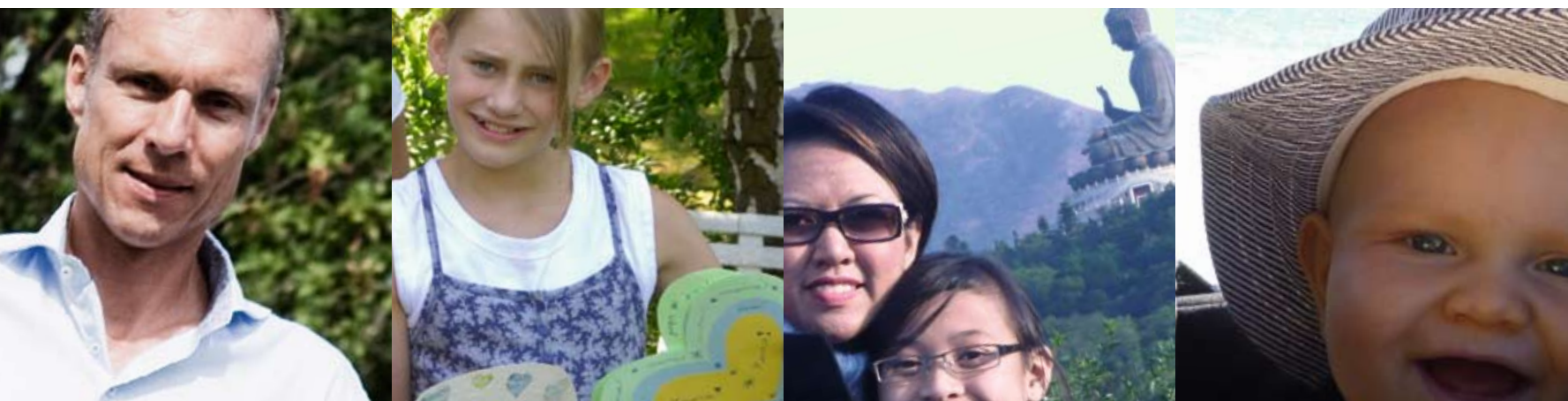


Families on the move • Competencies and skills • New policies • Expat kids



moving abroad

- Families on the move [14, 20, 24](#) • Diversity in assignments [5, 10, 13, 23](#) • New policies [6](#) • Expat kids [18, 22, 26, 27](#)



Going abroad on an assignment is a major challenge. It is an opportunity to come up against special circumstances both in professional and private aspects. While it is a step towards a life abroad – a new country, a new language, many new friends and experiences, it is also leaving your home country – your family, your friends and all the things that you are accustomed to.

In this magazine we will give you the chance to read experiences of other expatriates in all different stages of their assignments: on their first assignment or with several experiences already, and different backgrounds. It is a magazine to inform, but also to inspire – to give you the best support during your period abroad.

Philips understands that the process of moving abroad can involve many complications, both in personal and working life. We hope that this magazine goes some way to reassuring you, the – potential – expatriate, by reminding you of all the positive and exciting factors that a change of circumstance can bring. There have been some recent changes around the international assignment process, all of which are geared towards our brand promise of sense and simplicity and are in line with a more globally organized business. We believe that it is increasingly important to create and communicate an integrated, worldwide positioning of HR Services to our customers. And that is our promise for 2010 and beyond:

We aim to deliver an accurate, integrated customer experience for all our internationally mobile people!

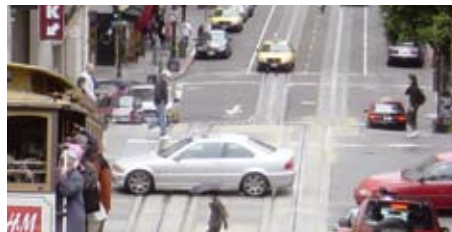
Competencies and skills



“You need to be able to enjoy life – after all, sometimes it is stressful combining work with a private life, so at certain moments you need to be able to stop working and do fun things with your children. Enjoying life is important!”



“One of the most important things for an expat is to be curious. You need to be curious about a new country and a new culture. Make sure you are willing to deal with unknown situations and be ready to start a new adventure!”



“As an expat you need to show initiative. You cannot just sit back and relax, but you need to have an active personality. Most of the time, this comes naturally – after all, when you choose to go on an assignment, it means you already have shown some initiative!”



“Expats need to be open-minded! Change should be something to enjoy – it should not scare you. A life in your own little bubble is not possible – be open to adjustment and try new things; it will change the way you look at the world. It will enrich you as a person!”



“An expat needs to be flexible. Sometimes things will not work out the way you planned them, both in your professional as well as private life. Try to learn from these situations, and do not judge them. It is important that you are able to get out of your comfort zone. Enjoy everything you learn and do not become stressed.”



“You need to have high emotional intelligence – sometimes you get lost in translation! Both parties speaking English does not mean both parties get the same message. And you need to read someone’s body language – it is like reading between the lines. Good communication skills are very important!”

