

Decision Making – Tool One:

You are currently contemplating making a decision, a decision that is likely to have a big impact on your life.

It is important that the decision is made within the context of your life and circumstances as a whole. You can then judge the opportunity of a new life abroad against what you appreciate currently in your life and what you want for your future.

I suggest that you need to consider the opportunity within the context of the following:

- **Your goals and ambitions** for life and your career and also your family if they are also involved.
- **Your personal values.**
Values represent what is important to you; they are states of mind and principles of action and are usually abstract for example; honesty, love, freedom, loyalty, integrity and friendship. You need to be clear on what is important to you and how this opportunity will help you to honour these values – or not as the case may be. If they will not all be honoured how will you cope with this?
- **Your strengths and skills** – what are your strengths, skills, aptitudes and attitudes that will help you to cope positively with the impact of a big life change such as this, for example: how resourceful a person are you?
- **Include other family members.** If you are not the only person who is going to be affected by the relocation then you need to include other family members in the decision making process as well.

One way of thinking through an issue is to ask yourself questions. But where do you start in terms of generating questions? This tool helps you to create a personal list of questions in a systematic way. It can be a very powerful way of starting your thought process around the subject.

If you are considering relocating as a family it is a great way to involve them in thinking the whole issue through as well. You will learn what is important to each person by the questions and subsequent answers that this process generates.

Method:

Either print this document off and use the diagram given below OR copy it onto paper.

Write the 'issue' that a decision has to be made about at the top of the diagram.

In each of the boxes underneath the issue box there is a question word:

Who? What? How? Where? When? and Why?



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Underneath each box write as many questions as you can. You need to start each question with the appropriate question word. Here are some examples to get you started:

- Who:**
- Who will move with me?
 - Who do I need to talk with about this opportunity?
 - Who could help me?
 - Who will this move impact on?
- What**
- What will this move entail?
 - What will my new role be?
 - What are the cultural characteristics of the country I would be moving too?
 - What are the advantages?
 - What are the disadvantages?
 - What will the impact be on my career?
 - What will I be paid?

You get the idea?

There are no right and wrong questions, just questions that have relevance to you.

Once you have created a list of questions for each question word start to answer them and I recommend writing your answers down. Write as thoughts come to mind, freely and from the heart, you don't need to over-analyse at this point.

Once you have answered them read through your answers and repeat the exercise again, you may find you have even more questions. You can repeat the exercise as many times as you like. One suggestion might be work through the exercise once each day until you feel you have exhausted all questions and answered as much as you can.

Then ask yourself:

- What questions am I unable to answer?
- Would knowing the answer help me in making a decision?
- What can I do to find out the answer?
- Who can I speak to, where can I do some research?



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