

SEASONAL CHEER

THE results of the latest *Expat Experience* survey conducted by HSBC have just been published and apart from Singapore not featuring in the top three destinations (we came fourth), it threw up some interesting statistics. Over half of expats (58 per cent) questioned in this year's survey have lived abroad for more than five years, but the length of stay in the respective country of residence is only between seven months and two years. Singapore scored highly in terms of quality of life (fifth overall), with 51 per cent of respondents saying quality of accommodation had increased from their country of origin. Rather curiously, expats here do not prioritise socialising with locals – coming 24th out of the 26 countries covered, and 18th in terms of the ease of making local friends. Singapore scored highest in setting up utility accounts (talk about damned with faint praise), but also in entertainment, transport, education/child care and commuting to work. Among the more amusing stats are that one in five expats have found love overseas, with Thailand being the most likely place to fall in love, but if you're single, you're more likely to stay that way in Qatar or India. Those earning less are also more likely to find love, plus there is hope for late bloomers: those over the age of 55 stand a greater chance of finding their life partner (25 per cent) while living overseas.

And on that note, it just leaves us to wish you all season's greetings and all the best for the new year.



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