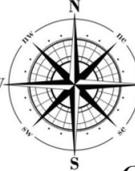




The
EXPL  **RE**
Schoolhouse

Looking for passionate teachers who want to revolutionise the education system!

The Explore School House (based in Singapore) offers full-time grade 1-6 individually tailored gifted education, developing critical thinking, creativity and communications skill sets. We follow the US curriculum and use materials from William and Mary, and University of Connecticut. The Explore School House was started because we believe that

- we should encourage each child to find and pursue his/her passion
- children should be respected and have a say in their education
- education should be personalised for each child based on their strengths and interests
- learning should be rich and authentic

The Explore School House is currently looking for a passionate English Language Arts/Drama Teacher (preferably a native English speaker), a Mathematics Teacher and a Science Teacher who share our beliefs. Teachers will need to plan activity based assessments to know each student's abilities. Teachers will have to create lesson plans as they will need to differentiate or accelerate based on the children's needs. Teachers should be creative and comfortable in a non boxed-in curriculum setting. Teachers will need to keep an open mind to new solutions and ideas and inquire to understand the children's thoughts better.

Applicants should have at least a bachelor degree and 5 years relevant teaching experience (preferably having worked with gifted children, and/or taught in a project-based learning environment). Applicants should be competent in creating activity-based assessments with relevant rubrics and lesson plans (with differentiation and acceleration). Applicants need to have an open mind and are willing to adapt.

This is a permanent contract. Benefits include:

- Competitive salary (US\$40,000-US\$90,000 (~S\$52,000-S\$118,000*) per annum depending on experience)
- Performance bonus (15% of annual salary)
- 1 return airfare for you and family annually, temporary housing (30 days in a hotel) & relocation allowance (half a month's salary for single and one month's salary for family)
- Death, Accidental and Medical (covers both outpatient and inpatient) insurance for you & family
- Fee reduction for children of employees (if admission criteria are met)
- Professional development (may include travel to US, Europe and Australia)

Interested candidates are invited to send in a comprehensive CV, a recent photograph, current and expected salary and contact details of three referees (one of which must be from your current/last school) to: director@theexploreschool.org

For more information, please visit www.theexploreschool.org

*conversion rate used: US\$1 = S\$1.311

About Singapore

Singapore is considered to be one of the most cosmopolitan and prosperous destinations in the world. With its beautiful beaches and dazzling skyscrapers, it's a mix of unearthly beauty and modern technology. It's also widely known for its cleanliness, cosmopolitan vibe, and electronics. It has one of the highest percentages of expats in the world and every year it sees more and more people from all across the globe moving to the island to find new opportunities and excitement.

Consisting of a main island that is linked by a causeway and bridge to southern Malaysia, Singapore also has about 63 smaller islands. Two of the man-made connections to Malaysia are the Tuas Second link in the west and the Johor-Singapore causeway in the north. There are also some land reclamation projects. As a result, the country continues to get bigger, even though it's an island. In fact, in the 1960s the land area was 581.5 km² (224.5 sq mi) and today it is 704 km² (272 sq mi) today. It is estimated that within the next 20 years it might grow by as much as 100 km² (40 sq mi). Some of the land in Singapore has been set aside for nature reserves, although the country's urbanization has eradicated most of its rainforests.

The country's full name is the Republic of Singapore and Singapore is used to refer to both the main island and the country itself. Major religions include Hinduism, Taoism, Christianity, Buddhism, and Islam. The most widely practiced religion is Buddhism with Christianity being the next. However, 17% of the population does not claim any religious affiliation. There are various religious ceremonies, festivals, and structures throughout the country and religious tolerance is practiced.

Located between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Singapore is bordered by Malaysia and Indonesia. The majority of Singapore is only about 15 meters above sea level with the highest point being Bukit Timah which is 165 meters. There are hills and valleys in the northwest while the land is flatter and sandier in the east. There are not any natural lakes, but there are reservoirs to help store water for the water supply.

As of 2012, Singapore's total population is 5,312,000. Of those, 533,000 are Singapore permanent residents, attesting to its large expatriate community. In fact, Singapore is one of the most popular places for expats to relocate to. Many people from mother countries emigrate thanks to good weather and good job opportunities. Some also find themselves in Singapore due to job relocation. The official currency is the Singapore dollar. You will generally see it abbreviated with the dollar sign (\$). It is often signified with the symbol S\$ to differentiate it from the American dollar and other dollar currencies. The Singapore dollar is divided into 100 cents. The main exports are machinery, petroleum products, computer equipment, and rubber products.

English is the official language, although you'll also hear a range of other languages spoken including Tamil, Mandarin, and Malay. In business situations, English is the language of choice and you'll find that road signs are also in English. In addition, there are several English language channels available and popular American and British television shows are often shown in their native English.

To gauge the cost of living in Singapore, please use the cost of living calculator:

<https://www.contactsingapore.sg/en/investors-business-owners/why-singapore/about-singapore/cost-of-living-calculator>

Cost of living in Singapore

Cost of Accommodation

The cost of housing in Singapore depends on factors such as the property's proximity to the city, relative age of the property, availability of recreational facilities (such as pool, gym, etc.) and the quality of furnishings that come with the accommodation. You should take your time to decide where you want to live in Singapore and make a decision only after careful consideration of the average rental cost as well as your personal preferences.

Condominiums

Most expats in Singapore live in private condominiums due to the availability of recreational facilities such as swimming pools, tennis courts, playgrounds for children, secured access; opportunity to socialize with other expats; and affordability as compared to renting landed property. The rental prices for private condos can vary greatly depending on the location and age of the building.

The rental cost of a fully furnished 1-bedroom condo located outside the city-center in neighborhoods such as Clementi and Upper Bukit Timah are around S\$1,800-S\$2,300 monthly for a 400-600 sq ft unit. The rental cost of a fully furnished 3-bedroom condo located in the same area are around S\$2,700-S\$3,300 monthly for a 1,200-1,400 sq ft unit.

HDB Flats

Living in a government housing flat (called HDB flats) is the best way to immerse yourself in the local culture and community since more than 80% of the local Singaporeans live in HDB units. Most HDB flats are within close proximity to basic facilities such as banks, local schools, markets, polyclinics, libraries, shopping malls and train and bus stations. However, these apartments do not come with luxury amenities like swimming pools or gyms.

The rental cost of a fully furnished 1-bedroom HDB located outside the city-center in neighborhoods such as Clementi and Bukit Timah are around S\$1,500-S\$1,800 monthly for a 700-800 sq ft unit. The rental cost of a fully furnished 3-bedroom condo located in the same area are around S\$2,300-S\$2,800 monthly for a 900-1,400 sq ft unit.

To find out the most current rental availability in Singapore, please check out on www.propertyguru.com.sg.

Cost of Food

Food is relatively cheap in Singapore. However, as elsewhere, food expenses depend on how extravagant you are. Food expenses can either be a marginal factor or a significant factor when calculating your average living costs depending on the lifestyle you choose to adopt in Singapore. An expatriate family living in Singapore can save on their food budget if they cook on their own as often as possible or eat out in food courts. Although several international cuisines are available in a range of restaurants to suit varied budgets, dining out on an everyday basis is definitely a more expensive option in the long-term.

Eating In

If you cook at home, your average monthly personal food costs should come up to only about S\$200 per person for basic meat and vegetables. For a couple eating out, average monthly food cost can range around S\$1,000 – S\$1,200 depending on their eating choices.

Eating Out

One of the unique features of living in Singapore is the abundance of hawker centres and food courts that offer a wide variety of dishes. An average daily lunch at a hawker centers can be as low as S\$4 whereas at a food court you can have lunch for about S\$5 – S\$6. A meal at fast food joints

such as McDonalds will cost you around S\$7, while a drink at Starbucks is around S\$6 – S\$7. A visit to an average restaurant can set you back by S\$20 – S\$40 per person for basic meals. In summary, with breakfast and dinner at home, lunch outside at food courts, plus basic weekend outings, the monthly food budget in Singapore can run around S\$600 – S\$1,000 for an average budget-conscious couple.

Transportation Costs

Public Transportation

Singapore has one of the best, most comprehensive, and least expensive public transport systems in the world. A one-way average bus or MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) fare is about S\$1.60. If you combine bus and MRT transports, it will cost you S\$150 a month on the average considering a daily to and fro office commute costing S\$3.50 and average weekend cost of about S\$10. A couple that travels regularly within Singapore, using MRT or bus, will need to set aside a monthly combined transportation budget of roughly S\$300 as part of their Singapore living costs.

Taxi Service

Taxi service in Singapore is one of the most efficient worldwide. Taxi drivers are willing to cover even the shortest of distances. Unlike most western countries, traveling by taxi in Singapore isn't very expensive.

Taxi fare starts at S\$3.00 – S\$3.40 for the first mile and you pay S\$0.22 for every 400m traveled up-to 10km, and S\$0.22 per 350m thereafter. Some taxis like a Mercedes or a London cab start at a higher rate of about S\$3.90. You can hail a cab on the road or call their number (S\$2.30 – \$3.30 extra) to book a service. During peak hours (weekday mornings 6:00am – 9:30am and evenings through Sundays 6pm – 12 midnight), you will incur extra charges of about 25% of the fare while the late night surcharge (from midnight until 6:00am) is 50% of the metered fare. There are location-based surcharges that apply in the CBD area (S\$3 from Monday to Saturday, 5pm until midnight) airport (S\$3-S\$5), etc. You may also have to pay any ERP (Electronic Road Pricing) charges on selected expressways during certain peak hours.

Private Car

In contrast to inexpensive public transportation and taxi service options, owning a private car in Singapore can be a rather expensive luxury due to heavy government taxes on this mode of transportation. The government aims to reduce heavy road congestion and air pollution. Therefore, it encourages the average person living in Singapore to use public transportation instead.

You will need to take into account initial purchase costs and recurring costs while deciding to buy a car in Singapore. The biggest component of the initial purchase costs is the Certificate of Entitlement or COE. COE is a certificate that entitles you to register and own a vehicle for 10 years. If you wish to buy a car in Singapore, you must participate in a COE bidding exercise. This is an auction of sorts where you have to bid for the certificate in order to fall within the pre-determined quota. Most often, the demand for COEs outweighs the limited quota that is released. This imbalance often results in unaffordable COE costs. As of February 2011, COEs are priced at S\$57,009 for vehicles under 1600cc and S\$78,189 for those above 1600cc. Apart from the COE, you will have to pay a Goods and Services tax of 7% of the custom duty. Registration fees of S\$140, an additional registration fee that is 100% of the vehicle's Open Market Value (value of the car as assessed by the Singapore Customs), and an excise duty (20% of Open Market Value) apply. Apart from the initial purchase costs are the recurring costs of motor insurance, road tax, petrol (automobile fuel) charges, parking charges, etc.

Automobile fuel is called petrol (instead of "gas" or "gasoline") in Singapore. It is measured in liters. A liter of petrol can range from S\$2.15 to S\$2.52 depending on the grade. Parking your car in the city will cost you from S\$2.00 per hour. On the average, you will spend about S\$600 a month

for petrol, toll charges, and parking, and about S\$500 – S\$1,000 yearly for maintenance. A brand new Japanese or European model can easily cost upwards of S\$150,000.

In the face of such steep prices, many expatriates have opted for car rental arrangements that range from about S\$1,000 to S\$1,800 a month, depending on the vehicle's model and mileage. Also, with a fairly recent regulatory amendment, rented vehicles are now permitted to drive into Malaysia on weekends.

Singapore is a very small place with excellent public transportation services (both air-conditioned); therefore, there is absolutely no necessity for owning a car unlike most other countries in the world. However, if your work requires extensive city travel during the day, you might think about buying or renting a car. Owning a private car will add significantly to your average living costs in Singapore.

Cost of Healthcare

The health-care system in Singapore was ranked best in Asia and sixth best in the world by the World Health Organization in 2000. The system is cost effective and offers state-of-the-art medical treatment that boasts of high success rates. The system has stringent government-mandated guidelines for transparency, excellence, safety and cleanliness. However, there is no government mandate for employers to provide health insurance to its employees. As a general practice, health insurance benefits are not provided by majority of the employers in Singapore. If your compensation package includes medical insurance, this is a non-issue for you. Even if your employer does not provide health insurance, the cost of medical services in Singapore is reasonable.

You don't need any insurance to cover your day-to-day health-care needs and can set aside a monthly budget of S\$100 – S\$200 to this end. A typical consultation fee at a general practitioner is S\$30 (versus US\$350 in USA) while blood-work and x-ray will cost you around S\$50-S\$80. Specialists at private institutions usually charge between S\$75 -S\$125 for a consultation. Note that you should purchase insurance that covers surgery and hospitalization. Such insurance will add up to about S\$2,000 – S\$3,000 per year. Hospitalization charges vary depending on the type of ward chosen. Wards in Singapore vary from open wards with no air-con in place to a private medical suite that resembles a royal suite at a 5-star hotel. Accordingly, the daily charges for a ward can vary from S\$30 to S\$3,000.

Utilities Expenses

Monthly gas, water and electricity bill may range from a low of S\$200 to a high of S\$600 a month, depending on your air-conditioning usage. Mobile phone subscription costs anywhere between S\$25 to S\$100 per month. A broadband Internet connection at home will cost you around S\$50 per month. For cable TV connection you can estimate about S\$28 for the basic channel subscription and S\$50 – S\$80 for the expanded subscription. You have a wide choice of international channels including familiar channels such as CNN, BBC, Discovery, HBO, Disney, ESPN, and many more. A deposit of S\$250 is required of foreigners for obtaining a cable connection. StarHub's (the cable company) offering for Digital TV has further improved the choices for programs. The company's Demand TV offers a choice of 10 movies at any given time for a cost of S\$4.50 per movie. You need a digital set-up box from StarHub to use this service.

Cost of Education

As a working expat in Singapore, you have the choice of sending your child to a government or private school. Government schools are also called local public schools while private schools are also called international schools. Education standards in Singapore are very high and you can't go wrong with either one of the two. A local school will follow a curriculum as approved by the Ministry of Education whereas an international school will follow a curriculum that's more widely accepted

internationally such as the well-known International Baccalaureate (IB) high school diploma. One of the key advantages of local school education in Singapore is that it is very affordable. In contrast, sending a child to an international school can cost anywhere between S\$1,000 – S\$3,000+ per month.

Local Government Schools

Primary school totals 6 years. There are 4 years of secondary school leading to the GCE O Level exams or 5 years for the GCE N Level exams. Children of expatriates residing in Singapore on employment passes can be admitted to local schools. It should be noted however that local schools are attended by children of Singaporeans and Permanent Residents. The monthly cost of sending your child to a local school in Singapore w.e.f 2012 will be S\$246 – S\$356 for primary education, S\$341 – \$486 for secondary education and S\$552 – S\$772 for junior college education.

International Schools

International, American, British, Canadian, Dutch, German, Japanese, and Swiss are some of the international schools present in Singapore. The estimated yearly fees range broadly from S\$12,000 to S\$37,000. School bus fare expenses amount to an estimated S\$1,500 – S\$2,000 a year.

Cost of Childcare Services

There a number of childcare centers in Singapore that provide childcare services for babies and children up-to to the age of seven years. The fees vary from center to center and depends on the packages being offered i.e half-day childcare, full-day childcare, or extended full-day childcare. Typically, half-day childcare (7am to 1pm) costs around S\$400-S\$1,200 while full-day childcare (7am to 5:30pm) will cost you about S\$500-S\$1,500.

Cost of Hiring Domestic Help

You can hire a live-in domestic helper in Singapore through maid agencies. Most of the live-in domestic helpers are recruited by maid agencies from approved neighboring countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. The average monthly cost of keeping a live-in maid would come to around S\$600 – S\$1,000, inclusive of your helper's salary and government levy. As the term "live-in" implies, you also have to provide accommodation and food for the maid. You can opt to hire part-time domestic workers for a modest fee of S\$10-S\$20 per hour.

Taxes

Singapore boasts of one of the lowest income tax rates in the world. Singapore's tax system ensures sizable tax savings and is one of the most commonly cited advantages among expats relocating to the country. Singapore follows a territorial basis of taxation which essentially means that only income earned in Singapore is taxed. Income earned overseas is not taxable, barring certain exceptions. Singapore's personal income tax rates for residents (citizens, permanent residents and foreigners who have stayed or worked in Singapore for 183 days or more in the tax year) start at 0% and are capped at 20% while non-residents (foreigners who have stayed or worked in Singapore for less than 183 days in the tax year) are **taxed at a flat rate of 15% (compared to 25% US federal tax and 5% (median) state tax)**. Singapore has also concluded as many as 69 comprehensive tax treaties (US included) to provide relief from double taxation of income. Furthermore, there is no capital gains tax, no wealth tax, no estate duty, and no dividend tax in Singapore. You can use our online tax calculator to compare how you will be taxed in Singapore vis-a-vis your country of residence.

Final Note

Choices are abound in Singapore. By and large, the cost of living in Singapore is kinder to those who know how to manage their financial resources, and keep a regular paying job. For a couple

with one school-age child and one working adult, the following can be a useful rule of thumb guideline: If your take home salary for the family is less than S\$4,000 per month, your living standard would be modest and resemble the following:

- Rent an HDB flat
- Use mostly public transportation and occasional taxi
- Send your child to local school
- Mostly home cooking and occasional eating out

With a take home of about S\$6,000 -S\$7,000, you should be able to upgrade yourself to renting a private condo outside the central district area and hire a maid, with rest of the choice remaining the same.

Thus, for a single:

Accommodation	S\$2,000
Food	S\$ 500
Transportation	S\$ 150
Utilities	S\$ 350
Total Monthly Cost of Living	S\$3,000 (~US\$2,300*)

For a family:

Accommodation	S\$3,000
Food	S\$1,000
Transportation	S\$ 300
Utilities	S\$ 500
Total Monthly Cost of Living	S\$4,800 (~US\$3,700*)

*conversion rate used: US\$1 = S\$1.311