

Moving to Singapore

Your 90-Day Success Kit



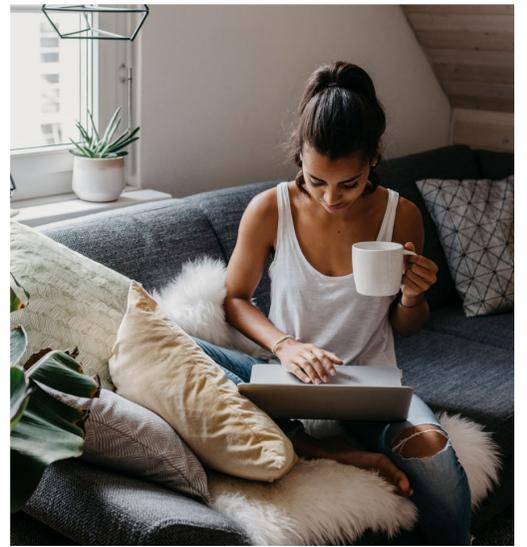
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Introduction



Culture hotspot meets vibrant transit hub, Singapore is lively, lush and liveable with family-friendly neighbourhoods, an efficient transport network and a balmy climate all-year-round. Living in the Lion City means you'll enjoy a melting pot of different cultures, flavours and traditions that have attracted people from all around the world.

Whether doing some light research into a move or several steps into your relocation process, this kit will clue you in on some of the essential info you need to make a successful start to life in Singapore.

Getting Set Up

Connectivity

On your mobile

In Singapore, there are many providers to choose from. Whether you are looking for an unlimited plan just for you, or a family plan that covers your nearest and dearest, there are a variety of options.

At home

Singapore boasts some of the fastest broadband speeds in the World. While you should shop around to get the best deal for you, it is also worth checking if your employer participates in any corporate schemes that may offer extra value and perks.



Top Tip – Mobile Plans

Choose between SIM-only plans, or plans that include a phone. You also have a choice between prepaid cards or post-paid cards, which often come with extra benefits.



Top Tip – Signing up for Broadband

When you are ready to sign up with your internet service provider, make sure you have these documents ready:

- Valid ID
- Proof of address
- A copy of your homeowner authorisation form (if you are renting)



Accommodation

Whether you're dreaming of a house near the beach overlooking water or want to live in a high-rise condominium, Singapore has property options to suit a wide price range and different lifestyles.

HSBC has tied up with relocation partners to help you move and settle comfortably into Singapore life.

[Learn More ▶](#)

Buying

Planning long term? Buying a property in Singapore might be right for you and your family with expats eligible to buy condominiums. However, the purchase of landed property such as bungalows and semi-detached houses is subject to approval by the Singapore Land Authority¹, which is a rare occurrence. Expats are also required to put down a substantial deposit and pay a high stamp duty.

¹ <https://www.sla.gov.sg/property-boundary-n-ownership/foreign-ownership-of-property>



Top Tip – Renting and Buying Advice

The government's Urban Redevelopment Authority website is our recommended go-to resource for renting and buying in Singapore.

[Take Me There Now ▶](#)

Renting

With a well-established expat community, renting in Singapore is straightforward with a range of different properties to choose from such as public flats, private condominiums and landed homes.

Finding a place

Many people work with a property agent to find a home. This may cost around half a month's rent for a one-year lease, or a full month's rent for a two-year lease. The agent may handle any paperwork or negotiations with the landlord.

Searching for accommodation independently is also possible – you'll find a large selection of listings and useful info on online property search platforms.



Understanding tenancy terms

In Singapore, tenancy agreements start at a minimum of three consecutive months and the length may be negotiable depending on the property.

[Learn More ▶](#)

Putting in an offer

A prospective tenant may need to provide a Letter of Intent (LOI) and deposit of two months' rent before signing a tenancy agreement with the landlord.

[Learn More ▶](#)



Top Tip – Understanding the LOI

The Letter of Intent (LOI) is unique to Singapore. It is a formal notice that a prospective tenant gives to a landlord showing their interest in renting the property, along with a deposit.

Banking & Money

Day-to-Day Spending

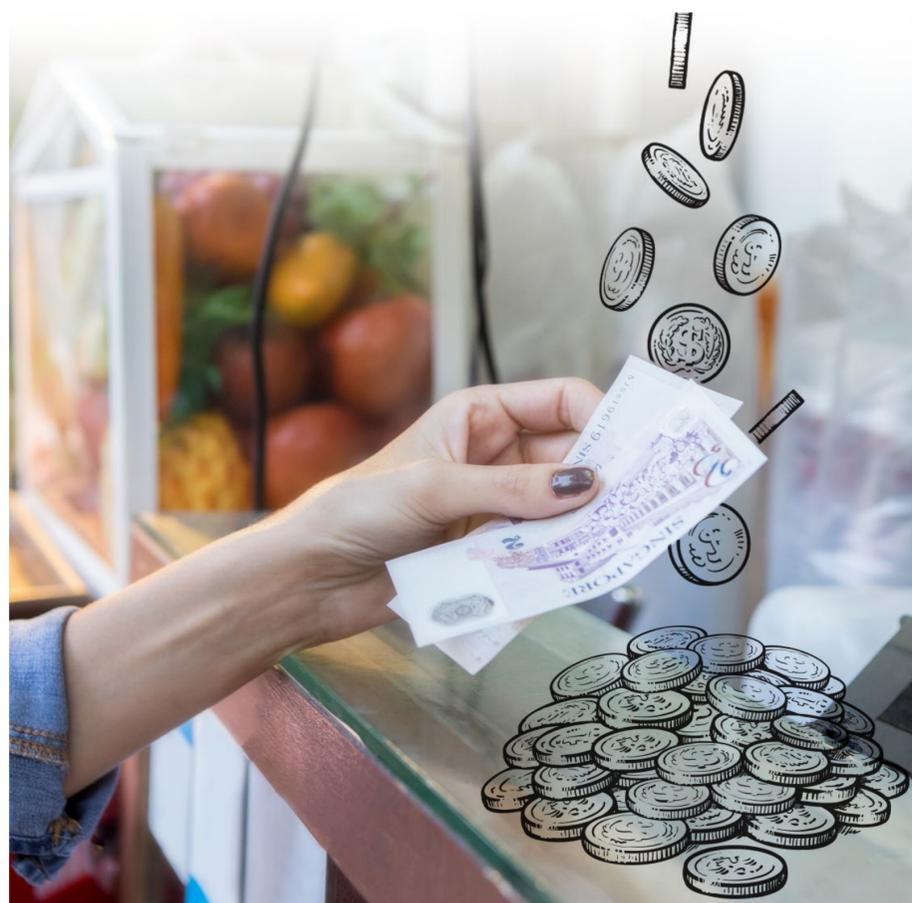
The Singapore Dollar (SGD) is the nation's official currency. For everyday spending, credit cards are widely accepted across the island. Other popular options include:

Debit Card

HSBC offers Debit Cards equipped for contactless modes of payment, so you can tap and go while you dine, take public transport or shop at most major retailers. Withdraw cash from over 800 locations across Singapore including 7-Eleven, Cold Storage, Guardian and the atm5 Network.

PayNow

Receive and send money to your family and friends using just a mobile number – regardless of the bank they bank with. It's a simple and secure way to make island-wide transfers. You can also make payments to companies, banks and government agencies when you PayNow to their Unique Entity Number (UEN) or scan a Singapore Quick Response Code (SGQR) with the HSBC Singapore app.



Top Tip – Carry Cash!

In Singapore, many small shops and hawker centre stalls don't accept credit cards, so always ensure you have some cash at the ready.

[Learn More](#) ▶

Money Transfers

We know it's important for you to be able to move your money around freely both within Singapore and internationally.

Locally, there are a number of ways to perform transfers:

- FAST (Fast And Secure Transfers) is an electronic funds transfer service that allows you to pay anyone, anytime in Singapore via online or mobile banking
- GIRO (General Interbank Recurring Order) is an automated electronic payment service that is especially useful for regular bill payments



[Learn More](#) ▶

Setting Up an Account

A local bank account is essential to getting settled into your new life. HSBC offers setting up an international account remotely – set up an account before leaving your home country so you're ready to go the moment you arrive.

Whether you are looking to live or study abroad, you will need a bank account so you can pay bills, receive your salary and have access to cash via a debit card.

Tax

Low income tax has made Singapore an attractive place to work but different rules may apply based on your tax residency status.

For more detailed information on opening an account, visit

<https://international.services.hsbc.com/>



Top Tip – Understanding Tax in Singapore

Found out everything you need to know on the government's official tax website.

Visit Now ▶

Immigration & Identification

ID & Visa

If you plan on working in Singapore, you will need to get the right work pass. The type of pass or permit required will depend on your profession and the work you intend to do. These include the **Employment Pass**, the **EntrePass** and the **S Pass**. If you have been accepted to study full-time at a university in Singapore, you will need to obtain the **Student's Pass**.

For families coming to Singapore, if one parent has an employment pass and earns above the required salary threshold; their employer can sponsor dependent passes for their spouse and children.²

Once you have successfully been issued a work visa or pass, you should apply for a SingPass – a digital identity account that gives you access to essential Singapore Government e-services.

Apply for your SingPass here:
<https://www.singpass.gov.sg>



Top Tip – All Your ID and Visa Questions Answered

Learn more about work passes and permits on the Ministry of Manpower's website.

Find Out More ▶



² <https://www.mom.gov.sg/passes-and-permits/dependants-pass/eligibility>

Feeling at Home

Travel

The easiest way to get around Singapore is via the highly efficient Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) subway system that connects most of the city and is supplemented with an extensive bus network. An EZ-Link transit card can be used to pay fares on buses, trains and taxis.

Owning a new car in Singapore requires a **Certificate of Entitlement (COE)** which is valid for ten years and also includes a number of substantial fees and taxes on top of the price of purchasing a car. This may make purchasing a second hand car with a reduced COE fee or short-term car leasing a more attractive choice for your family.

Taxis are plentiful and popular, while ridesharing service are readily available and widely accept debit and credit cards.



Schooling & Education

Singapore's schools have a reputation for excellent education with students regularly topping global academic rankings. You'll find a range of options in Singapore that provide high-quality schooling for your children.

Local public schools are an affordable and popular choice with a bilingual academic program that is recognised internationally, with English as the language of instruction and second language options based on students' ethnicity. However there is a cap on expat admissions, so be sure to check in advance.

On the private side, choose between international schools that are designed to support highly-mobile expat families, national curriculum schools aligned to a specific nationality to ease the transition back home or blended schools that combine both approaches.



Top Tip – Get in Early for School!

In Singapore, demand is high for public and international schools. Register as soon as possible to ensure your child gets a place.

HSBC has tied up with education consultants to provide consultancy services

[Learn More ▶](#)

Wrap Up

Taking the plunge and moving to Singapore doesn't have to be a scary experience. With the right level of planning and support, you will make a success of the experience. At HSBC, we are here to help you get everything right in your first 3 months, and beyond. Good luck, and we can't wait to join you for the next chapter of your life here.



Top Tip – Let Us Help You

Contact one of our Relationship Managers and make the most of your move.

[Find Out More ▶](#)