

Dr Bas Winkler – Netherlands

Settling into the UK with a family

What were your main sources of help and advice before you arrived in the UK?

The main sources really were advice from colleagues as well as again extensively using this website 'upmystreet.com' which gives lots of information, not just about the properties but also about the area, Schools that are close by etc etc.

If international staff were bringing their families with them, what advice could you give them in relation to the family settling into the UK?

Well I suppose there are a couple of things that need to be considered. One important thing is the School, if you have children who go to School. So again you may want to visit the Schools beforehand if that's at all possible, and when you look for accommodation, you want to make sure that the Schools that you like are in the catchment area and have places available. That's very important to ask that as some Schools may not be quite what you like.

If your partner needs to register with a professional body, that may happen for instance if they are a teacher or a GP. Now if you are from the EU, your qualifications should be automatically recognised and there is quite a bit of wrong advice that you might get.

Do you have any other tips for new international staff in relation to settling into the UK?

What you don't have to worry about is health insurance, you just have to register with your GP and that's it.

And then if you have children you can claim child benefit which is fairly straight forward, and you can use the government websites to find all the relevant forms.

If you have children younger than School age, do you have any tips for people trying to find childcare in the UK?

Well you can go to nurseries, there is I think one nursery on campus. An alternative is to go to your local council and ask for a list of childminders and they will provide you with a list of names and contact details.