

FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING

# LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE ABROAD

*Resources, tips & tools  
for women accompanying  
their partners on an  
international move*

The Realty Guide Series  
**JEANNE A HEINZER**



costs such as home flights, housing allowances, school fees, club memberships and relocation costs. These expenses are probably already being funded by your partner's employer, which means that your own potential employer can get a skilled foreign national without any of the usual additional costs of hiring an expatriate. What a deal!

If you plan to look for work in the corporate environment, being well-prepared before you go abroad can save you valuable time and expenses. Have copies of all your documents with you as you may need them in the application process. Get certified translations of personal and professional documents in foreign languages. Make sure that your travel papers are up-to-date as well as your CV. Highlight those unique skills that matter to the local market.

### **The benefits of setting up your own business**

Stephanie Ward, an American business coach, has been living and working in the Netherlands for many years. She has run her own business for some time.

“Starting a business and freelancing are emerging as alternatives to a salaried job,” explains Stephanie. Some women are drawn to starting an enterprise because of their desire for independence and the vision to reach big goals. Others are driven to freelancing or contract work as an opportunity to work flexible hours using their expertise or specific skills. With today's technology you can build a portable business that moves with you wherever you go and serve your customers outside your country of residence. Companies outsource tasks or projects to freelancers. Some countries specifically support business starters, and sometimes starting a business does not require a work permit.

“While running your own business can be very rewarding, there are a few points to consider. You are more likely to achieve ambitious goals if you are clear about them. Write a business plan to gain that clarity and to make it happen. Keep in mind that you are not only producer but also responsible for marketing, finance, sales and strategic management. It is useful to give your business a structure and describe the processes for every part of it.”