

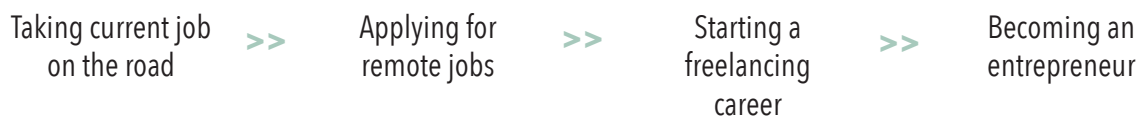
# career planning: the **EXPAT PARTNER** and the **DIGITAL NOMAD**

## WHAT IS A DIGITAL NOMAD?

- » **DIGITAL**: relates to the use of computer technology **NOMAD**: relates to being a wandering tribe without a fixed destination.
- » People who have rejected the idea of working in a conventional office, but instead they work remote and travel.
- » Digital Nomads leverage digital technology to gain independence, work remotely and change their location frequently.
- » Expat Partners and Digital Nomads might have different reasons for living abroad but many share the same desire: **PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE**



## LEVELS OF NOMAD ENGAGEMENT



## MOST COMMON DIGITAL NOMAD PROFESSIONS

- » Copywriter & Content Writer
- » Graphic Designer
- » Virtual Assistant
- » Online Language Teacher
- » UX Designer
- » Coaching / Consultant
- » Blogger
- » Social Media Marketing Manager
- » FBA (Fulfillment by Amazon)
- » Web / App Developer

## CAREER PLANNING & SATISFACTION: A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE DIGITAL NOMAD AND THE EXPAT PARTNER

Comparison of the personal outlook on career planning between Digital Nomads (DNs) and Expat Partners (EPs). The findings are based on conducted surveys and personal interviews amongst the two target groups.

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### DIGITAL NOMADS ARE THE ROLE MODELS OF BEING CONFIDENT AND SELF-ASSURED

- » DN's are in general way more positive about their future career, feel way more independent, more confident with their skillset, and really do not care what others back home might think about their career choice.
- » EPs are struggling with these points way more, especially when they are still in transition of finding work abroad.

	Expat Partner in general (job seeking)	Digital Nomad
Degree of worrying what others might think of career choice	25% (47%)	9%
Degree of being concerned about future career path	43% (79%)	17%
Degree of defining happiness based on career success	60% (52%)	40%
Degree of feeling independent	49% (36%)	84%
Degree of feeling confident with skill-set	66% (44%)	82%

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### DIGITAL NOMADS DO NOT CARE WHAT OTHERS THINK OF THEM

- » There is a correlation between worrying what others might think of your career choice abroad and how positive you rate your future career path.
- » EPs who are worried about the opinion of others tend to be more insecure about their own skill-set and feel less independent.
- » DNs are more self-assured and focused on their own decisions that often conflict with the norm.
- » While EPs get more insecure over time - there was no correlation found for the DN.



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### DIGITAL NOMADS DO STRESS LESS ABOUT WORK PERMITS

- » Only 1/3 of all DNs asked are in possession of a valid work permit.
- » Not having a work permit had no correlation on career satisfaction or future outlook for Digital Nomads.
- » About 50% of EPs interviewed are in a possession of a work permit. However there are many working without a permit and many not working although theoretical allowed to.



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### DIGITAL NOMADS ARE LESS DEFINED BY THEIR CAREER BUT BY THEIR LIFESTYLE CHOICE

- » EPs who are searching for work are more worried about their career future and state that career defines them to a high degree (67%) compared to DNs (40%) or EPs who managed to take their career abroad (46%).
- » DNs profit from their personal approach on how they got in this situation in the first place. Out of free will and desire to create something. Common quote: "I set myself up for success."
- » DNs see work as a tool: "I would change my career path anytime, if it does not support my nomad lifestyle anymore."



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### DIGITAL NOMADS AVOID THE CAREER LIMBO BY PREPARING IN ADVANCE

- » EPs who are currently looking for a job are highly afraid of losing track of their long term career plans.
- » Biggest insecurity comes in times of limbo like the process of finding a job abroad which can take longer than anticipated.
- » DNs often prepare for this before moving abroad as creating a portable career is a precondition for leaving home behind.
- » Most DNs choose to base their business on their skills and interest and are not looking for remote corporate jobs.
- » They tend to be higher risk takers and are more flexible in their career plans.



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### SUCCESSFUL DIGITAL NOMADS & EXPAT PARTNERS SHARE A COMMON SKILLSET

- » Asked what kind of skillset DNs and EPs should possess to be thriving abroad and in their profession, both parties mainly stated soft skills.
- » Within the Top 10 skills mentioned, 5 were exactly the same:  
Flexibility, Adaptability, Curiosity, Communication Skills, Organizational Skills

#### THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM DIGITAL NOMADS

- » Be the master of your own fate
  - » I can do - attitude
- » If you are not able to work right now - think about ways to develop a remote oriented skillset
  - » Focus on yourself - not what others might think about your choices
  - » Believe in your skillset