

Next Gen GM

LEARNING FROM LOCKDOWN



My experience of living abroad started in 2008, when being Dutch, I decided to study in Russia for a year.

Many fellow students of mine said I was crazy to go there, but I said they were crazy not to get out of their comfort zone, and I was right. The decision to go ultimately resulted in getting introduced to the Global Mobility industry and to expat life in Moscow, which was an incredible experience. During that time, I worked as a coordinator, consultant, key account manager and business development manager in Moscow for a total of seven years.

Suffice it to say, I fell in love with the Global Mobility industry.

I had a natural click with the expats I worked with, both on a professional and on a personal level, and I noticed just how amazing it is to share a global, cosmopolitan mind-set with the people I worked with, from assignees to corporate accounts and partners all over the world. My love for travelling the world and living the expat life has taken me around the world from Berlin to Dubai and taught me so much, giving me the opportunity to take the best from every country, religion and culture that I have encountered along the way. I have also met my wife whilst working in Russia, and now we raise our trilingual three year old daughter.



I was looking for a new challenge starting at the end of 2019 in Berlin.

Of course, nobody could have anticipated COVID-19. Unfortunately, this also meant that my wife and daughter had to stay quarantined in Spain, and that we experienced this lockdown separately. All my job opportunities were suddenly on hold and I decided to invest in the Worldwide ERC certification of Global Mobility Specialist. I used the time to connect more with people in the industry and with professionals that

are in the same situation as me, looking for opportunities by sharing self-empowering experiences, thoughts and contacts in recruiting. It is not only nice to get introduced to people in the industry but also to give back and introduce people to each other.

Whilst lockdown has had its challenges, it has also helped me slow down and make sure I am ready when the situation will change for the better.

The number of webinars and podcasts in combination with all the networking opportunities have been amazing and showed me how open and caring the Global Mobility community is.

This COVID-19 lockdown has shown me that we have to enjoy local life because situations can change suddenly and made me more aware to not postpone my dreams and to act on opportunities that come my way.

I am still looking for a new opportunity in this industry after borders open again and hope the knowledge I have learnt over the last few months will help me succeed!

I wish everybody in the industry all the best and hope that soon we will be able to see Global Mobility at its best again very soon.

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