Do you have what it takes to work abroad?
Personal Inventory Questionnaire

1. My level of education is:
   a. Post Graduate Degree and/or TEFL Certificate
   b. College Graduate
   c. Some College
   d. High School graduate

2. I have:
   a. More than $5000 in savings
   b. $3500-5000 in savings
   c. $1000-3500 in savings
   d. Less than $1000 in savings

3. My physical condition is:
   a. Excellent in both stamina and overall physical health
   b. A little out of shape but basically good
   c. Fairly good but with a few troublesome health conditions
   d. Lacking stamina and in need of regular medical attention

4. I am someone who
   a. Can face any challenge without fear
   b. Can get by on my own in most challenging situations
   c. Functions best with a companion
   d. Is easily frightened by unfamiliar settings or unexpected events

5. I am a person who
   a. Adapts easily to new situations
   b. Enjoys the unfamiliar, but prefers my routine
   c. Avoids unfamiliar situations whenever possible...
   d. Must adhere to a strict and familiar routine

6. When faced with a challenge
   a. I never give up until I succeed
   b. I work very hard and usually succeed
   c. I work at things that come easily and produce immediate rewards
   d. I give up at the first obstacle

7. When it comes to solving problems
   a. I use my own resources, logic, intuition and imagination until I find a solution
   b. I research the problem and usually arrive at a solution
   c. I seek the help of others for solutions
   d. I’m not very good at solving problems

8. I’m someone who
   a. Finds lots in common with strangers and makes friends easily
   b. Gets along well with most everyone but is slow to form friendships
   c. Works well with other people but keep to myself
   d. Is shy or prefers to remain a loner

9. In my relationship with my family, I am
   a. Very independent
   b. Closely connected but not on a daily basis
   c. Very closely connected and rely upon them for support
   d. Still living with my parents and rely on my family for everything
10. Where food is concerned
   a. I love to try new foods and will eat most anything
   b. I enjoy a wide variety of foods and am not too picky
   c. I am very conservative and stick to the basics
   d. I am on a strict diet

11. When I take a trip
   a. I travel well and enjoy all kinds of transportation
   b. I prefer comfort and luxury but can tolerate most any type of vehicle
   c. I am a little claustrophobic and prone to motion sickness
   d. I hate to travel

12. Where honesty and integrity are concerned:
   a. I uphold both at all costs
   b. I use my judgment and try to be the best person I can whenever possible
   c. I frequently bend the rules and compromise my integrity
   d. I don’t really have a code of behavior for myself

13. When I find myself in a less than ideal situation
   a. I am always willing to compromise to make the best of a situation
   b. I hold on to my ideals until I see that a compromise is the only way
   c. I find it hard to compromise and do so reluctantly
   d. I do not compromise under any circumstances

14. When life becomes difficult
   a. I try to see the humor in it and keep a balanced perspective
   b. I try to solve my problem but not always with the best attitude
   c. I sink into a bad mood for a while but usually manage to overcome the problem
   d. I get depressed and discouraged and usually give up

15. When I look back on my life experiences
   a. I feel that I have lived a rich and rewarding life so far
   Whether good or bad, I learned something from all of them
   b. I’ve had ups and downs but am still basically optimistic
   c. Nothing ever seems to work out for me

To score yourself to see if you have what it takes to live and work abroad, give yourself:
   3 points for every a
   2 points for every b
   1 point for every c
   zero for every d

Bonus Points:
   a. I already have a job awaiting me in my destination: 10 points
   b. I speak the local language: 10 points
   c. I have relatives or friends living there: 5 points
   d. I have traveled extensively in other foreign countries: 3 points

If you scored:
More than 35 – GO FOR IT! You have what it takes!
25-34 – You may encounter some difficulty, but you will probably succeed
15-24 – Take a look at your weak areas and get yourself prepared for the challenge
Less than 15 – Don’t even think about it

Source: Transitions Abroad transitionsabroad.org
by Celeste Heiter, Freelance Writer