For many expatriates, the change in life and work dynamic is a big challenge, often to their sense of personal identity. Therefore, you need to be well-grounded in your God-given identity. Your time in Nepal will benefit from an ability to revise your understanding of ‘achievement’ or ‘success’. Building good relationships with national colleagues, and to be a valued part of the team, may be the key achievements. Such objectives are just as valuable as the more traditional task-focused outcomes (e.g. productivity).

Extracts from INF’s ‘Selection and Service Criteria’ policy

In keeping with INF’s vision and values, and in consultation with Nepali leaders, the following are some of the desirable attributes. We are looking for people who:

- are responding to a sense of calling.
- are spiritually mature, willing and able to combine their faith with their professional work.
- are flexible (able to work outside their own culture).
- are sensitive to the traditions, feelings and culture of Nepalis and are committed to learning and adapting to local ways of working.
- are ready to give their advice, but who are willing to follow the lead and direction of others.
- competent in their roles and have an ability to pass on, and develop, these skills in others.
- have compassion.
- are able to see the big picture / overview.
- are not people who have a need to take the lead.

WHAT PREPARATION DO YOU NEED?

As with all things, being well prepared makes the transition to living and serving in Nepal a better experience. We encourage you to view this stage of enquiry and exploration as the start of a journey where every step, and every twist and turn, is an important part of your learning and growth. As part of this journey, please consider all areas of your life and the kind of preparation you need to meet the following aims:

Mind, body and spirit
To develop the right heart and mind to be effective in an alien environment - to be able to do more than survive; to grow in maturity and thrive. For this, self awareness and the practice of spiritual disciplines are very helpful along with a healthy appreciation of the need for quality rest and a wholesome lifestyle.

Practical living
To have some preparation for the lifestyle changes that are likely – this may simply be adjusting to shopping without your own transport or cooking only with basic and seasonal ingredients; or strategies for coping with extremes in temperature, managing with cuts to the electricity supply or the internet and to dealing with reduced privacy.

Culture
To understand the primary concepts of culture and be equipped to work and live inter-culturally i.e. to ‘relate & integrate’ with those who are different to yourself. For this you need a good understanding of values and worldview and have an ability to understand and embrace other people’s ways of doing things – whether that’s nationals or other expats in your team.

Missional
Preparation that enables the you to communicate (though words or deeds) the love of Christ, to minister to others and to ensure your own spiritual health. For this, a good understanding of the biblical basis of mission, of exegesis and hermeneutics, and contextualisation will be helpful.

Professional
To develop professional skills and qualifications suitable for the role and to satisfy visa requirements. In addition, the skills and attitudes that will enable you to be effective in a culturally diverse environment. To have appropriate expectations, a desire to build the capacity of others and to be able to transfer your skills.