

I hope you find this form helpful in preparing yourself and your partner for your journey together. Julia Ferguson Andriessen, Love Immigrant™

## They are the One

Ok, so you figured out they are the one for you...

you know:

- all about them and their families
  - their past relationships
  - whether they have kids
  - whether they want kids
- if they are willing to relocate to your country if it doesn't work out in theirs
  - how their family feels about you, foreigners, your homeland
  - if they have friends, if their friends support this relationship
- they have taken the time to ask you the same questions as above

you know:

- the legalities of their country
- all the legal papers and requirements they will want from you ([apostilled documents](#))
- what rules are imposed on you as a love immigrant vs. a tourist or natural immigrant (for example in Holland we are sponsored in by our Dutch partners as one option but you sign away certain immigrant rights for that benefit - the Dutch partner needs to be able to financially support you completely)
  - if you will be allowed to work in their country
  - if you feel comfortable with their medical care and system
  - what their retirement approach is, can you retire there as well
- what insurances you will be required to have to enter the country, to stay in the country
  - what you will do if it doesn't work out or you need to leave the country quickly

you know:

- the weather in the region (hurricanes, flooding, tornados)
- the political climate (unstable government, violent groups, political views)
  - the economy of the country - your future standard of living
- the infrastructure, transportation - how you will get around - can you drive there

you know:

- if you can get clothes there for your body size, shape, height
  - you can find shoes for your size, width, comfort
- what prescriptions you may need to stock up on or get changed
- your special needs and if they will be supported there (handicaps, mental health)

you know:

- their customs regarding holidays, celebrations
  - their religious views, practices, rituals - how they view yours
  - their approach to animals, treatment of, use of, what are pets and what are food
    - their approach to food preparation, handling and storage (open markets with unrefrigerated meats out all day)
      - the types of food they serve
- (ex. Holland uses horse meat for sandwiches & frozen food products)
- the availability of special food products, vegetarian products

you know:

- how your partner likes to be touched
  - what things they are afraid of
  - when they sleep, which side of the bed, do they snore
- their personal hygiene habits, how often they bathe, use deodorant, brush their teeth
  - are they affectionate, do they hug, how do they kiss, how do they greet others
    - if you have issues around these things have you discussed them
      - what their dreams are, plans for the future

you know:

- what housing is like there
  - who cleans what and what will you be expected to do
    - what is the neighborhood like
- is their roofing, flooring, air conditioning, heating, screens for windows
  - is the water safe, hard on skin, needs to be boiled to use
    - hills, stairs, elevators
  - how safe it is, the level of crime, the common types of crime (Holland - stealing bicycles is a pastime)

you know:

- you have listened to your heart and mind
  - your instincts aren't fighting you on this
- family ties aren't being destroyed over this (don't think this won't affect you later)
  - you have a back up plan as a form of mature preparation in case something goes wrong
  - you have a detailed list of contacts of officials in both countries in case you need help (embassy or consulate)
  - you aren't escaping people or a country but going towards someone you truly love and cherish
    - you have thought this through, and again, and again

## what I know:

- I came up with this description because I didn't fit the classic "expatriate" or immigrant definition
  - I am a love immigrant  
(from Southern California, USA to IJsselstein, The Netherlands)
  - I have coached many love immigrants  
(many are unprepared and often return home alone)
- I have interviewed and spoken with hundreds of love immigrants from around the globe
  - It takes more than love to make it work
- Multicultural relationships have issues that are different than same culture relationships
- The better prepared you are, the more support you have, the more enjoyable the adventure will be
  - If you have lots of doubts after reading this site, seek out guidance from a reliable and impartial source

***Contact me if you would like to benefit from having a coach that can provide a trusted place for you to explore and create your future***

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