

2026 Global Budget Planning Calendar

A month-by-month guide to building, managing, and reviewing your global expansion budget. A clear calendar keeps international plans on track - aligning people, strategy, and finances throughout the budgeting year.

Use this timeline to structure your 2026 planning, execution, and review cycle.

Phase 1: Planning & Preparation (Nov 2025 – Jan 2026)

NOVEMBER 2025:

- Confirm 2026 expansion priorities and target markets.
- Gather regional data on labour costs, FX, and inflation.
- Engage HR, Finance, and Compliance in joint planning sessions.
- Identify potential risks and outline mitigation strategies early.

DECEMBER 2025:

- Build scenario models for base, growth, and downside forecasts.
- Map one-off setup and ongoing operational costs for each market.
- Complete Briars' Global Budget Readiness Diagnostic.
- Align the budget timeline with governance and reporting calendars.

JANUARY 2026:

- Finalise and approve the 2026 global budget.
- Allocate contingency funds (typically 5–10% of total international spend).
- Confirm systems, reporting structures, and key owners per region.
- Communicate approved budgets to functional and regional leaders.

Phase 2: Execution & Oversight (Feb – Jul 2026)

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2026:

- Begin rollout of the approved global budget.
- Monitor monthly cashflow, payroll, and early-stage costs.
- Adjust for FX movements, inflation shifts, or initial forecast deviations.
- Validate entity setup or EOR models against local requirements.

APRIL - JUNE 2026:

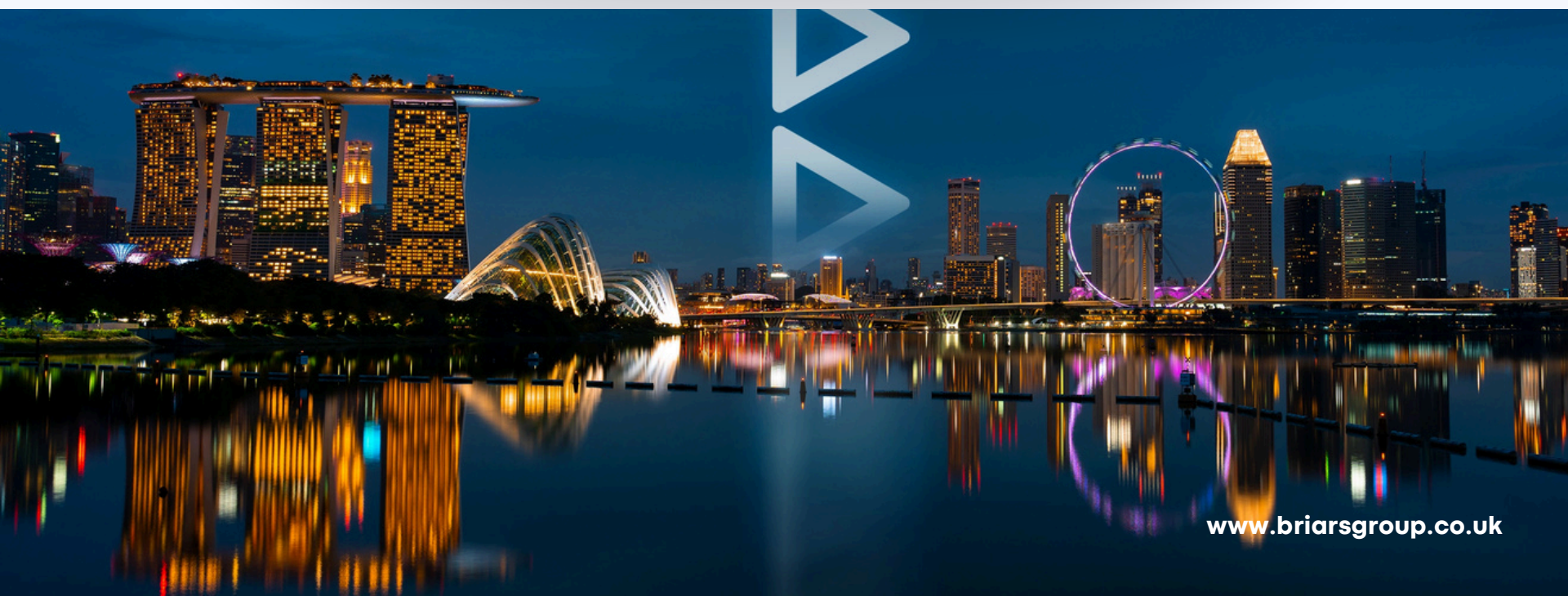
Quarterly Review #1:

- Compare actual vs. forecast performance.
- Reassess FX assumptions, inflation rates, and compliance fees.
- Review hiring progress against approved headcount plan.

- Adjust regional allocations if required.
- Update scenario models based on revised mid-year data.

JULY 2026:

- Mid-year realignment and reforecast.
- Incorporate updated market, regulatory, and cost data.
- Confirm performance tracking metrics for H2.
- Conduct cross-department alignment meeting (Finance, HR, Ops).



Phase 3: Review & Refinement (Aug – Dec 2026)

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2026:

- Evaluate profitability and performance by region.
- Identify cost efficiencies or overages and rebalance budgets.
- Review progress against 2026 strategic objectives.
- Update HR and Finance teams on regional compliance and labour changes.
- Begin drafting guidance for 2027 financial modelling.

OCTOBER 2026:

- Conduct **Quarterly Review #3** and year-end forecasting.
- Document lessons learned and best practices.
- Assess leadership bandwidth and operational performance.
- Identify regions requiring additional investment or consolidation.

NOVEMBER 2026:

- Begin 2027 pre-planning:
 - Review 2026 outcomes against original KPIs.
 - Reassess international markets for growth, divestment, or optimisation.
 - Refresh FX, tax, and inflation assumptions.
- Engage senior stakeholders in early strategic workshops.

DECEMBER 2026:

- Finalise the 2026 year-end review.
- Complete financial and compliance reporting for all regions.
- Prepare 2027 planning framework and cost assumptions.
- Present a full-year performance summary to the board.
- Recognise achievements and communicate success stories internally.



Remember

A successful global budget isn't a one-time exercise - it's a living framework. Review quarterly, plan continuously, and adapt to market change. The most successful global businesses treat budgeting as a strategic rhythm - not a deadline.

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