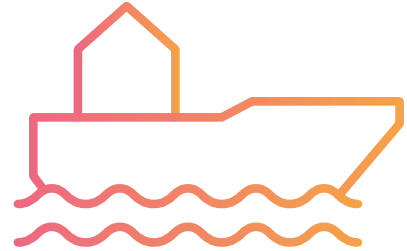


Moving Abroad Checklist



Moving abroad can be overwhelming. Sorting out logistics and documents while you're deciding what your new life will look like and saying goodbye to everyone is a lot.

But thankfully, it doesn't have to be overly stressful – especially if you have a simple checklist to follow.

Documents

Prepare all your key documents, which are below, and keep them in a safe place. You can keep track of where they are in a note on your phone, or online.

- Ask your new country's local embassy which documents you'll need
- Get a passport
- Renew your passport if it expires in less than six months

Locate and secure your:

- Birth certificate
- National Insurance number (or equivalent)
- Medical records
- Driving licence
- Qualifications for your job or work permit

Children

If you make your way through these checkboxes, moving with children can be a smooth, enjoyable process.

- Research schools and apply well in advance
- Look at local schools, parks, and activities before securing a home
- Help your kid(s) to learn your new country's language

Visa

If you're lucky, your employer will secure a visa for you, and you can check every box in this section. If not, no worries – just start ticking off these tasks six months in advance, and you'll be fine.

- Find your chosen country's visa options
- Pick the one that applies to you
- Fill in and send off your application
- Check your application's status online every few days, if possible

Pets

If you have one of the more than **844 million** pets in the world, make sure you follow these steps to ensure your favourite animal accompanies you to your new home.

- Check your new country's requirements for moving your pet there
- Visit your vet and make sure your pet has all the necessary vaccines and paperwork
- Hire the services of a pet relocation company

Notify your GP

- Tell your GP you're leaving, so they can remove you and your family from the their register, and give you any necessary vaccinations
- Stock up on any ongoing prescriptions

Arrange your move

Once you have a visa, you can start working out how you and your prized possessions are going to get to your new home.

- Book a ticket for your flight, train journey, etc.
- Get quotes for your belongings to be shipped/flown to your new home
- Pick a company
- Fix a price and date for your possessions to be moved
- Sell or store any belongings you're not taking with

And this is an optional step, but recommended, as it helps you to see the big picture.

- Make a 'Things I'm excited for' list about your new country

Accommodation

Maybe you don't have much choice in this department, or maybe the entire country is your oyster. Either way, get to ticking.

- Pick a location for your home
- Buying or renting? If buying, ask the authorities if you're allowed
- Look online for a new home, and decide on one
- Research your new country's process and get the relevant documents

Tell the government

- Tell your government's tax authority that you're moving
- Register as an overseas voter

Insurance

If something goes wrong, ensure you're prepared by sorting out the following policies:

- Health insurance
- Life insurance
- Travel insurance
- Home insurance
- Removals insurance

Sort out your finances

- Consider closing your bank account if you don't own property here
- Set up an international account (you can do this with many banks)
- Choose to leave or transfer your pension, then tell the company
- Check if you have to stop putting money in your savings account
- Ask your tax authority if you'll owe expat taxes

Last steps

- Pack up your belongings
- Make a first-day box with a towel, a fresh change of clothes, sheets, coffee or tea, and some food, and mark it 'unload me first'