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

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’

Tell the government

☐ Tell your government’s tax authority that you’re moving
☐ Register as an overseas voter

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