Moving Abroad Checklist

A complete moving abroad checklist covering visas and documents, finances, housing, healthcare, logistics and settling in.

Visas and Legal Documents

- [ ] Confirm the correct visa or residence permit for your situation
  Requirements vary by country and change often — check official government and consulate sources.
- [ ] Ensure your passport is valid well beyond your move date
- [ ] Gather birth, marriage, and academic certificates
- [ ] Get documents translated, notarized, or apostilled as required
- [ ] Check work authorization or sponsorship requirements
- [ ] Make copies of every key document, stored separately

Finances and Taxes

- [ ] Open or research a bank account in the new country
- [ ] Notify your current bank and set up online access
- [ ] Understand tax obligations in both countries
  Cross-border tax rules are complex — consult an official tax authority or advisor.
- [ ] Budget for the move, deposits, and initial living costs
- [ ] Set up a way to transfer money internationally
- [ ] Update billing addresses and cancel local subscriptions

Housing and Logistics

- [ ] Research neighborhoods and arrange temporary housing
- [ ] Secure a rental or accommodation before or soon after arrival
- [ ] Get quotes from international moving and shipping companies
- [ ] Decide what to ship, sell, store, or donate
- [ ] Arrange storage for anything you keep behind
- [ ] Plan customs paperwork for shipped belongings

Healthcare and Insurance

- [ ] Research the destination's healthcare system
- [ ] Arrange international or local health insurance
- [ ] Collect medical and vaccination records
- [ ] Refill and pack essential medications
- [ ] Check required vaccinations for the destination
- [ ] Find out how to register for local healthcare

Before You Leave

- [ ] Give notice on your current home and job
- [ ] Cancel or transfer utilities and services
- [ ] Set up mail forwarding

- [ ] Notify government agencies of your departure
- [ ] Arrange pet relocation and required paperwork
- [ ] Book flights and confirm baggage allowances

Settling In

- [ ] Register your address with local authorities if required
- [ ] Apply for a local ID, tax, or social security number
- [ ] Set up a local bank account and phone plan
- [ ] Register for healthcare and find a doctor
- [ ] Learn local transport and exchange your license if needed
- [ ] Connect with expat or community groups for support