

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