

Expat checklist

Still have some time left? Prepare 3 to 6 months before your departure

Administration

- Ensure you have a valid passport that is valid for at least 6 months, or apply for a new passport
- Apply for a work visa or residence permit
- Gather important documents (certificates, marriage certificate, medical records)
- Have documents translated/certified
- Find out about taxes

Accommodation

- Find temporary or permanent accommodation
- Terminate your lease or sell your property
- Gather information about utilities in your new country

Work and contract

- Sign your employment contract
- Find out about social security and pensions
- Apply for a certificate

It's almost time, 1 to 3 months before your departure

Moving

- Organise your move with an international removal company
- Take out removal insurance
- Sort your belongings and only take what you really need
- Organise storage space if necessary
- Plan the transport of your pets

Finances

- Open a bank account in your new country
- Check exchange rates and international transfer options
- Inform your current bank about your move
- Set up or cancel automatic payments

Health

- Have a check-up with your doctor
- Take out international health insurance
- Request your medical records
- Organise your vaccinations

The countdown is on: the final weeks before your departure

Communication

- Cancel your subscriptions (internet, mobile phone, magazines)
- Inform your telecommunications provider
- Set up a local mobile phone subscription or eSIM

Change of address

- Notify your local council, bank, insurance companies, employer, family and friends of your change of address

Children

- Deregister your children from their current school
- Find a new school for your children and enrol them
- Request school reports and letters of recommendation

In your new country

First administrative steps

- Register with the local authorities
- Apply for a local identity card
- Open a bank account
- Take out local insurance policies

Settle in

- Furnish your flat
- Explore your neighbourhood
- Find the addresses of local service providers (GP, pharmacy, supermarket)
