

The essential check list for moving abroad

We've come up with the below checklist which is helpful when preparing to move abroad. This 90-day timeline should cover just about everything. Remember, each individual will have different requirements so make sure you're not missing anything specific to your move!

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| 90 days | | Book air tickets & hotel (if required) | Make a list of what will go in to each packing box |
| | | Apply for your visa (if required) & Ensure you and your family have a valid passport | Start packing items you won't need over the next 3 months, such as ornaments, books, photos etc. Remember to label your boxes! |
| | | Request quotes from professional movers | If you don't need it, sell it! Start selling items through local websites such as Gumtree & eBay |
| | | Arrange for an International Driving Permit (IDP) from your home country. It will save a lot of time and hassle down the track | Once you've booked your movers, ask them for specific information on what is permitted to be moved to the new country |
| | | If your driver's licence is up for renewal, do this before you leave. | Advise children's school & request transfer certificates |
| | | Speak to a tax advisor in your home and destination country to understand the benefits and pitfalls (there can be many tax benefits when working abroad) | Pets: Check quarantine requirements and arrange relocation |
| | | Create a folder with all hard copies and paperwork of the important documents and create a file on your computer for all of your saved files. Check the documentation requirements for the country you are moving to. Many countries require that official paperwork is certified before it can be accepted. See the individual city guide for more information | Visit a doctor to find out if you will need travel vaccinations. Book relevant appointments for these to happen. Don't forget your pet! They will need to see the vet to ensure everything is in order. |
| | | Arrange change of address/mail forwarding with the post office, friends and families. Also remember to update magazine subscriptions, credit card companies, utility bills etc. | If you're selling or renting your home, contact the local real estate start the process. |
| 60 days | | Contact your bank to update your postal details & let them know you're moving abroad, advising them to change your tax status to being a non-resident going forward. | Find out what the local names and equivalents are for any prescription medication you or your family are on. Make sure that it will be available in your destination country. If not you will need to arrange to take a supply with you, together with proof of your need for the medication for customs and excise purposes. |
| | | If you're selling your car – advertise it | Cancel subscriptions (i.e. magazines and newspapers) |
| | | Check insurance policies, and update/cancel if required | Ensure all repairs on your house are up to date |
| | | Organise a going away party | |
| 30 days | | Finalise details with the shipping company | Register as an overseas voter with the Electoral Commission |
| | | Cancel house and car insurance for the day you will leave | Give your new forwarding address on to family and friends |
| | | Change address with utility companies if renting out your property | Pack up the rest of your stuff, only leaving out the necessary items |
| | | Contact the various utilities departments and ask them to discontinue your supply of gas, electricity, water, pay TV and telephone. | Sign up for a bank account in your destination country so it is ready with money in it for when you arrive. You generally won't be able to access this until you verify your identify at a branch, however this will be required when signing up for rental accommodation, paying deposits and so forth. |
| 7 days | | Confirm with shipping company expected delivery date | Say your final goodbyes to family and friends |
| | | Do a triple check of your luggage making sure you have everything you need – after all you will be living out of these for the immediate future! | Enjoy the moment you step on the plane – you're about to embark on an awesome experience! |