

MOVING TO THE
THE UNITED KINGDOM
RELOCATION CHECKLIST

Your step-by-step guide to relocating to the United Kingdom

by Mark Palmer



3 - 6 MONTHS BEFORE YOU MOVE

DOCUMENTATION

- Passport – allow 6–10 weeks to obtain or renew
- Apply for the relevant UK Visa (if required)
 - Work with a [qualified immigration agent](#) for guidance - we can recommend help here
 - *Prepare biometrics, financial evidence & supporting documents*
- Gather academic transcripts, professional certificates & employment records
 - *Vital if you will be seeking employment on arrival in the UK*
- Medical records and vaccination certificates
- **Financial documents:** bank statements, tax returns
- Health and travel insurance documents

LEGAL MATTERS

- Obtain the necessary Visa or permit for yourself and your family
- Research and comply with tax obligations in the UK and your home country
- Research job prospects and likely salary on arrival in the UK

FINANCIAL PLANNING

- Research the cost of living in your target area of the UK
 - Use [Rightmove](#) or [Zoopla](#) to benchmark property costs
- Budget for: Visa fees, IHS, rental deposit, furniture and setup costs
- Notify your existing bank of your planned move
- Open an international account – HSBC or Barclays can assist
 - *Consider digital accounts such as Revolut or Wise*
- Check all international transfer fees, these can be costly with high street banks, again we can recommend foreign exchange specialists
- Research current currency and exchange rates

HEALTHCARE PREPARATION

- Understand the NHS – the UK's national healthcare system
- Pay the Immigration **Health Surcharge (IHS)** if required for your Visa
- Gather existing medical records ready for UK GP registration

SCHOOLS & EDUCATION PLANNING

- Research catchment areas for your target neighbourhoods
- Check Ofsted ratings of schools in those areas
- Understand the council application process for state schools
- Consider an education consultant for expert guidance on schools and applications - again we can help here
- Lots to consider here with a full blog here, [providing details](#)

FURNITURE & BELONGINGS

- Decide: ship your belongings or sell and buy new in the UK?
- Obtain removal quotes to understand costs and timelines - again we can help here.
- Book a reputable international shipping company early



MARK'S TIP - GET AHEAD EARLY

The earlier you start the documentation and financial planning process, the smoother your move will be. Visa processing times in particular can vary significantly. A good relocation specialist can help you sequence everything correctly from the start.

1 - 2 MONTHS BEFORE YOU MOVE

PAPERWORK & LOGISTICS

- Confirm travel arrangements and accommodation for your UK arrival
- Arrange transport from your UK airport to your accommodation
- Settle any outstanding bills and notify relevant authorities of your move
- Pack essentials for the journey: clothing, documents and tech
- Notify your current utility companies of your estimated move-out date

HOUSING & PROPERTY

- Research UK neighbourhoods and shortlist your preferred areas
- Decide on housing type: rental, purchase or serviced apartment
- Contact a relocation agent who can support you in finding a property
 - *Many offer a free initial consultation, providing valuable local insight*
- Arrange property viewings with local estate agents
 - *Your relocation agent can manage all of this on your behalf*
- Secure your accommodation and sign all relevant documents
 - *Have all paper work ready – the UK housing market moves quickly*

MOVING WEEK

- Final confirmation with your shipping/removal provider
- Check in for your flight and confirm all travel bookings
- Ensure all important documents are easily accessible for travel
- Share your itinerary with family or trusted contacts



MARK'S TIP - THE UK RENTAL MARKET MOVES FAST

Having your references, proof of income and deposit funds ready before you start viewing properties can be the difference between securing a home and losing it to another applicant. Preparation is everything.

ON ARRIVAL IN THE UK

BANKING & FINANCE

- ❑ Open a UK bank account if you have not already done so - hard to do without an address
- ❑ Set up online and mobile banking for easy day-to-day access
- ❑ Register for **council tax at your new property**
- ❑ Begin building your UK credit history from day one
 - Register on the electoral roll when eligible
 - Sign up to Credit Ladder to build your credit score using rent payments

ADMIN & COMPLIANCE

- ❑ Apply for a **National Insurance Number (NIN)**
 - Your employer may be able to assist with this process
- ❑ Register for Self Assessment with HMRC if self-employed
- ❑ Obtain a UK driving licence if required
- ❑ Notify the DVLA if you are bringing a foreign-registered vehicle

HEALTH & MEDICAL

- ❑ **Register with a local GP (doctor)** as soon as possible
- ❑ Locate your nearest NHS hospital and urgent care centre
- ❑ Register children with a local dentist and optician
- ❑ Transfer or share existing medical records with your new GP

UTILITIES & SERVICES

- ❑ Set up electricity, gas and water accounts
- ❑ Arrange a broadband/internet connection
- ❑ Purchase a UK mobile phone SIM or contract
- ❑ Arrange mail forwarding from your previous address
- ❑ Obtain a TV licence if you watch live TV or BBC iPlayer

SCHOOLS & CHILDCARE

- ❑ Research schools in your property's catchment area
- ❑ Contact the local council to check school place availability
 - Allow approximately 3-4 weeks from application to start date
 - Note: most councils require a fixed address before you can apply
- ❑ Consider an education consultant for expert guidance and support
- ❑ Look into tutors to help children adjust to the UK curriculum



SETTLING IN & EXPECTED COSTS

FURNISHING YOUR HOME

- ❑ IKEA, John Lewis and Dunelm all offer delivery services across the UK
- ❑ Furniture design services are available for a more tailored look Facebook
- ❑ Marketplace is great for affordable second-hand furniture Allow 2-4 weeks lead time for larger furniture deliveries

COMMUNITY & WELLBEING

- ❑ Join local sports clubs: football, tennis, cricket and more
- ❑ Explore arts and culture: theatres, libraries and local community centres
- ❑ Find a local hair salon, beautician and health and wellness services
- ❑ Attend local events and community meet-ups to build connections
- ❑ Join local Facebook and neighbourhood groups - an invaluable resource when settling in



EXPECTED COSTS – FAMILY OF 4 (APPROXIMATE GUIDE)

Costs vary significantly depending on your destination, visa type and family size. The figures below are a general guide.

COST ITEM	ESTIMATED COST
Visa & Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)	£5,000 – £10,000
International Flights	£1,500 – £3,500
Rental Deposit (typically 5 weeks' rent) Initial	£2,000+
Setup & First Month Living Costs School	£3,500+
School Uniforms & Supplies	£200 – £500
UK Mobile & Broadband Setup	£100 – £300

BOOK A FREE CONSULTATION WITH MARK PALMER

Mark Palmer at Forbury Services offers a free initial consultation to help you understand your options, plan your timeline and avoid the most common mistakes people make when relocating to the UK.

GET IN TOUCH

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Google Business Reviews

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Moving to the UK Podcast with Andrew & Mark

