

MOVING ABROAD CHECKLIST

Moving countries seems to have become a right of passage nowadays, or at least it is amongst those with insatiable wanderlust. For all the interconnectedness of our world however is it still a defining tilt in ones life; you stash away parts of yourself like a time capsule; unsure of whether they'll serve you upon return; it's the new that most people are chasing; new people, new haunts, new experiences, new selves and the price of that is unfamiliarity. Goodbyes ache terribly and the physical separation can seem daunting in the moment, however it's worth the embrace if nothing but to expand the fabric of your life. To lessen the overwhelm I've put together my thoughts and a checklist for moving abroad; to London specifically but adaptations can be made if you have another destination in sight.

PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

- Right to work**
Be sure to check processing and delivery times so not to leave applications too late.
- Travel insurance**
It is useful to take out coverage that protects you against delays, cancellations and lost luggage in transit.
- Book flights & accommodation**
Be mindful of layovers and connecting flights, where possible stay with relatives or locals.
- Pack & minimise possessions**
My best advice is to be as lightweight as possible; almost everything is replaceable.
- Vehicles**
Remember to cancel insurances, registration and to surrender your number plates.
- Licensing**
Check your requirements for driving in the UK and apply for an international driving permit if necessary.
- Mobile phone**
Ensure your mobile phone is also unlocked from any existing contracts.
- Services & Subscriptions**
Remember to cancel household services like water, and electricity along with subscriptions.
- Authorities**
Notify your bank of intended foreign travel and redirect or hold your postal mail.
- Medical**
Ensure all medical checks are up to date and take copies of relevant medical history and prescriptions.
- Online Services**
Ensure that online services are accessible without codes sent to country specific phone numbers.
- Miscellaneous**
Pack more electrical socket adapters than you'll need and once you've settled in replace all of you chargers.

UPON ARRIVAL

- Biometric Residence Permit**
Entering the country with on visa you'll need to collect your permit from a nominated post office, you can ten days to do so.
- Proof of Address**
Use a solicitor letter as proof of address or alternately engage an agency to open a bank account.
- Bank Accounts**
Research what might best suit your needs, some accounts come with travel insurance.
- Accommodation**
Be prepared to share and agree on the split of bills in advance. Read the fine print before signing a lease.
- Healthcare**
Register with a doctor as soon as possible. For non-emergent advice dial 111; for life-threatening emergencies dial 999.
- National Insurance Number**
For tax purposes you'll need a national insurance number; apply via telephone.
- Mobile Phone**
Purchase a SIM only package to start with and once you have a bank account research contract plans for the best value.
- Public Transport**
Purchase an Oyster Card for travel, you can top up online, at certain retailers or in stations.
- Rail Cards**
If you're looking to travel on weekends with a companion apply for a Two Together Rail Card to save money.
- Skype**
In my opinion this remains the easiest avenue to keep in touch with family and friends at home.
- Apps**
Download applications. National Rail, Cycle Hire, Uber and Airbnb are my top picks.
- Subscriptions**
Subscribe for sale updates from airlines and train companies; booking early will mean you can save on fares.

