

Help Me Leave!

Moving Abroad Checklist

This practical checklist starts from 3–6 months before moving. It is not exhaustive, but aims to help you understand the things you might need to think about when preparing for an international move.

3–6 Months Before

- ☐ Renew or apply for passports (ensure 6+ months validity).
- ☐ Apply for visas, work/study permits.
- ☐ Collect essential documents (birth/marriage certificates, school records, diplomas).
- ☐ Order certified copies and apostilles if needed.
- ☐ Set relocation budget and start saving.
- ☐ Research cost of living, housing, and healthcare.
- ☐ Arrange school applications and gather transcripts/vaccination records.
- ☐ Check pet import requirements (vaccinations, microchip, carrier).

1–3 Months Before

- ☐ Confirm visa/permit approvals.
- ☐ Book flights and moving company/shipping.
- ☐ Notify landlord/employer; give notice.
- ☐ Arrange health insurance abroad.
- ☐ Open international/overseas bank account.
- ☐ Downsize: sell, donate, or store belongings.
- ☐ Collect medical records, prescriptions, and insurance info (include kids' vaccination records, special education plans).
- ☐ Research childcare/schools in destination; start enrolment.
- ☐ Book vet appointment for pet health certificate.

Final Weeks

- ☐ Pack essentials: documents, medicines, electronics, valuables.

- ☐ Cancel or transfer utilities, subscriptions, and phone contracts.
- ☐ Set up mail forwarding.
- ☐ Confirm moving company/shipping schedule.
- ☐ Prepare 'first week' bag (clothes, toiletries, chargers, snacks).
- ☐ Pack comfort items for children (toys, books, blanket).
- ☐ Buy and prepare IATA-approved travel crate for pets; label with your details.

Moving Day

- ☐ Keep passports, visas, tickets, and documents in hand luggage.
- ☐ Secure house keys, deposits, or final bills.
- ☐ Double-check baggage weight limits.
- ☐ Prepare entertainment and snacks for children.
- ☐ Confirm pet transport/crate is secure and labelled.