

Pre-Departure Checklist

Everything to sort out before you leave for your move abroad

Documents

- Valid passport (6+ months validity beyond travel date)
- Visa / entry permit approved and printed
- Offer letter, admission letter, or contract (printed + digital copy)
- Passport-size photographs (check destination country's spec)
- Birth certificate and other ID proofs (originals + attested copies)
- Educational certificates and transcripts (attested/apostilled if required)
- Police clearance certificate, if required
- Vaccination / medical certificates
- Travel and health insurance documents
- Printed copies of hotel/accommodation booking for arrival

Money & Banking

- Inform your bank of international travel
- Set up or confirm international debit/credit card works abroad
- Carry some local currency in cash for arrival
- Note down emergency card-block helpline numbers
- Research bank account opening requirements at destination
- Keep a small emergency fund in an easily accessible account

Health & Insurance

- Complete any required vaccinations
- Carry a 1–2 month supply of regular medication (with prescription copy)
- Get a basic health check-up done before travel
- Confirm travel/health insurance coverage details and helpline

Housing & Logistics

- Confirm accommodation for at least the first 2–4 weeks
- Save landlord/agent contact details
- Check baggage allowance and restricted items list for your airline
- Weigh and label all luggage; keep essentials in carry-on
- Download offline maps of your arrival city
- Arrange airport pickup or research local transport from airport

Communication

- Check international roaming plan or buy a local SIM/eSIM in advance
- Save embassy/consulate contact number for destination country
- Share your travel itinerary with family/emergency contact
- Install messaging apps that work well internationally (WhatsApp, etc.)

Before You Lock the Door

- Cancel or pause subscriptions/utilities you won't need
- Set up mail forwarding or ask someone to collect your mail
- Back up important files and photos to cloud storage
- Make digital scans of every important document (email to yourself)
- Double-check visa/passport are packed in carry-on, not checked baggage

Tip: Make two photocopies of every important document — pack one in your check-in bag and one in your carry-on, and keep a digital copy in your email or cloud drive.