

Pre-Move Master Checklist

Everything to sort before you fly — in the right order.

3–6 MONTHS BEFORE YOU FLY

- Research your destination**
Cost of living, neighbourhoods, transport, weather, culture differences.
- Check visa requirements**
Do you need a visa? Work permit? Youth Mobility Scheme? Apply early — these take time.
- Set your move budget**
Calculate rent deposit, setup costs, gap period, and emergency fund. Use the budget calculator.
- Start saving aggressively**
Set a monthly savings target and automate it. Non-negotiable.
- Sort your passport**
Check expiry date. Renew if it expires within 6 months of your planned return.
- Research healthcare**
Will you be covered by the local system? Do you need travel insurance?
- Tell your bank**
Notify your current bank. Research best expat bank accounts for your destination.
- Research accommodation options**
Short-term first (Airbnb/hostel), then long-term rental. Know your options.

1–3 MONTHS BEFORE YOU FLY

- Book your flight**
One-way is fine. Be flexible on dates for cheaper fares. Use Google Flights price tracker.
- Book short-term accommodation**
Have at least 2 weeks sorted before you land. Airbnb, hostel, or a friend's couch.
- Open a travel bank account**
Revolut or Wise for travel. Avoid airport currency exchange at all costs.
- Get travel insurance**
Especially if your destination isn't covered by your passport's home country health system.
- Research local SIM cards**
Or buy an eSIM via Airalo before you fly. Avoid roaming charges.

Pre-Move Master Checklist

Everything to sort before you fly — in the right order.

- Sort your CV for the local job market**
CV formats differ by country. Research what's expected where you're going.
- Tell SARS / HMRC / your tax office**
If you're going for more than 6 months, you may have tax residency obligations.
- Download offline maps**
Google Maps allows offline download. Do it before you land.
- Back up your phone**
Cloud backup everything. Phones get stolen, lost, dropped.
- Scan all important documents**
Passport, visa, insurance, any official documents. Email them to yourself.

2 WEEKS BEFORE YOU FLY

- Confirm accommodation booking**
Re-check your booking. Confirm check-in process and any key codes.
- Pack a carry-on essentials bag**
Assume your checked luggage gets lost. Essentials in carry-on always.
- Sort your medication supply**
Bring enough for 3 months. Some medications are hard to get or have different names abroad.
- Notify family and friends**
Share your itinerary, accommodation address, and an emergency contact plan.
- Cancel / pause local subscriptions**
Gym, streaming, anything tied to your home country.
- Arrange someone to handle post**
Or set up mail forwarding if needed.
- Check baggage allowance**
Know your airline's weight limits. Avoid airport fees.
- Buy a travel adapter**
UK plugs are different. Buy before you go — airports charge 3x the price.

DAY OF TRAVEL

Pre-Move Master Checklist

Everything to sort before you fly — in the right order.

- Check in online**
24 hours before. Saves time and stress at the airport.
- Screenshot your booking confirmations**
Don't rely on wifi at the airport. Screenshots work offline.
- Charge all devices**
Phone, laptop, earbuds. All of them.
- Carry cash in local currency**
Enough for taxi/transport from the airport. Not everything takes card.
- Arrive at the airport early**
3 hours for international. Yes, really.

■ *Download the free Budget Calculator to work out your exact savings target before you book anything.*

lightielearning.com/resources