

During your decision making process, consider the following.

- Visa and permits.** Research to find a visa or permit that meets your circumstance.
- Moving expense.** Make a conservative estimate the expenses you are likely to incur.
- Consider taking a short trip** to get the feel for the climate and culture.
- Consider learning the local language**, if the language is not your mother tongue.
- Consider your job options.** Scour job boards and talk to recruitment agencies to learn what options are available to you, with your skill set.
- Consider the cost of travelling** between your native and host country. The time and expense may be prohibitive for frequent visits.
- If you have children**, consider the schooling and childcare they will need.

3-6 months before the move

- Decide how much you want to take with you, store, give away, or throw out.
 - If you are moving or storing furniture, get 2-3 quotes.
 - If you are buying furniture on arrival, consider second-hand furniture to keep expenses down.
- Research the local suburbs and rental prices.
- Research the cost of living expenses.
 - Check out online supermarkets, utility providers, and public transport websites to be aware of the cost of living.

1-2 month before the move

- Contact your utility company to inform them of your move. Arrange to have your phone/water/electricity/cable to be shut off on the day after your move.
- Organise for your mail to be forwarded to your new address.
- Alert your friends and family of your pending change of address.
- Cancel or redirect your memberships or subscriptions, such as magazine subscriptions, gym memberships, credit cards, book clubs etc.
- Arrange for your medical files to be transferred to your new doctor.
- Research institutions that you are likely to use in your host country, such as banks, insurance and health care providers.
- Collect boxes and begin packing items that are used least.
- If you have children, begin the paperwork required to transfer schools.



Before departure

- Pack your personal travel bag.
 - It should consist of important documents, a change of clothes, and toiletries.
- Be present while movers are loading the truck.
- After the truck is loaded, check the house one last time.
 - Check all drawers, closets and cupboards.
 - Remember to close all the windows and turn off the utilities.
- Take readings of your utility meters.

On arrival

- Be present while movers are unloading the truck.
- Get a new phone number with a local provider.
- Open a bank account.
- Look for a rental home, if you don't already have one arranged.
- Sign up to turn on the phone/electricity/gas/cable to your new home.

