

This checklist will guide you step by step through the emigration process

Research, plan and organise.

- Plan ahead: for distant countries, gathering all necessary documents can take up to two years.
- Discuss your plans with close family and friends, set a realistic budget, and consider taking a language course.
- Research your destination country.
- Check entry and residence permit requirements for your family with the destination's embassy or consulate.
- Attend a language course.
- Research the cost of living in your new country of residence and plan your budget.
- Find a job. Clarify whether your credentials and diplomas will be recognised and have them translated if necessary.
- Search for rental properties on trustworthy platforms.
- Prepare the necessary documents such as your salary certificate and confirmation of employment – translated into the local language.
- Are you planning to buy a property locally? Seek advice from independent experts who are versed in the legal requirements and local property market.
- Find out about the education system or international schools and enrol your children.
- Look into social insurance and pension schemes in your destination country.

Finances and insurance

- Find out about local healthcare and health insurance and consider an international private insurance provider.
- Be clear on your pension plan. Your obligation to take out 1st and 2nd pillar insurance ends when you emigrate.
- Determine how to manage your pension fund.
- Are you a pensioner? Report your emigration to your AHV compensation fund.
- Third-party liability insurance is invalid without Swiss permanent residence.
- Settle your tax obligations in Switzerland and research the tax situation in your future home country.
- Check with your bank whether you can keep your account open and be aware of possible additional fees.

- Do you own property in Switzerland? Think about whether you want to rent it, sell it or keep it. Be aware of the tax implications.
- If necessary, clarify with your bank whether you can keep your mortgage as a Swiss Abroad.

Important documents

- Ensure your ID card or passport has sufficient validity.
- Have documents such as your birth and marriage certificates translated and notarised.
- If you are travelling alone with a child, you will need notarised power of attorney, official identity documents and translated birth certificates.
- Do you have military service obligations? If so, you must apply to the district command for leave abroad.
- Have important medical prescriptions translated and obtain a certificate.
- Check mandatory and recommended vaccinations for your destination.
- Organise the necessary vaccinations and documents for your pet.

Moving

- Organise the journey for your family and pets.
- Sort through your belongings and calculate what you need to move.
- Look for a reputable removal company and compare different quotes.
- Start packing.
- Pack a supply of important medication.
- Find out about the customs regulations.
- Cancel all subscriptions and contracts in good time.

Mobility

- Determine if your driving license is recognized in your destination country.

- If not, apply for an international driving licence.
- Find out about vehicle registration (car, motorbike, boat...) and changing number plates.

Last steps before leaving the country

- Organise your leaving party.
- Deregister with your local municipality to obtain your certificate of family origin.
- Have your post redirected.
- Inform the roads and traffic authority that you are moving away.
- Do you have all your entry documents ready?

Shortly after entering the country

- Follow the registration regulations of your country of residence.
- Register with the relevant Swiss representation abroad.
- Open a new bank account.
- Buy a local SIM card.
- Ensure your inclusion on the electoral register for Swiss votes and elections.