

Key Points Checklist

What Visa Do I Need to Move to London?

If you're an American citizen planning on moving to London, you'll need to obtain the correct visa.

The type of visa you need will depend on your reason for relocating. There are several categories of visas, including work visas, student visas, and family visas.

Moving to the UK to work from outside of Europe will usually need a work visa. This is a requirement even if you're coming on a short contract or volunteering. There are several different long and short-term visa types to choose from, depending on the type of job you're doing – but getting approved for a UK work visa isn't always easy.

Tough immigration rules mean you'll usually need to be in a shortage occupation or be able to prove you're better qualified than British citizen applying for the same job. The UK government's website has all the information you need about which type of visa is right for you.

Taxes

Taxes will be more complicated when you are living in London as an American. All US citizens are required to submit an US tax return, no matter the location they reside. Both the US and UK have an agreement for tax treaties that allow you to deduct UK taxes from what you be owed to the US.

There are exceptions to this, of course, as nothing about US taxes is simple. US expats who earn an investment such as investment income, will have to pay tax on the earnings.

The downside is that there are extra US tax forms available to citizens living abroad, like the FBAR form for foreign bank accounts. It can become extremely complicated fast.

Average Cost of Moving to London from the US

For Americans moving to London there are some benefits. For example, the average salary in the Great Britain is higher than in many other European countries, including France and Germany.

However, London is an expensive city to live in. The cost of living in London is notoriously high, and it's likely to only increase in price as the years go by. If you're moving to London in 2022, be prepared to pay a lot for rent, food, transportation, and other necessary expenses.

Transport links in London are excellent though.

If you're savvy with your money, there are plenty of ways to save cash on living costs. Compare prices when shopping, cook simple meals from scratch, and take advantage of free activities available in the city.

With a bit of organisation and forward planning, you'll be able to live comfortably in one of the world's most expensive cities without breaking the bank!

London Housing Costs

London housing and rent costs are among the highest in the world, and if you aren't vigilant, they might consume up to half of your after-tax income.

If you are thinking of purchasing a property you must pay stamp duty, which is usually paid at completion or before you take ownership of your new property.

Other factors that affect whether buying a property is good value for money include location and size as well as what's included within the asking price (fixtures, furnishings and parking for example).

Our Relocation Services

If you want a property consultant that can help you with relocating to London we would be thrilled to help. We can help with finding you the perfect home, advise on areas suited to you based on your budget and requirements.

If you are relocating your job or business, our [business relocation](#) service is an ideal solution for you. If you are moving to London with your children, our 3rd party partner will help you find the best schools for them, and so much more.

We're experts in both residential and commercial real estate and will work with you personally to ensure your relocation goes smoothly.

Call us direct on + 44 (0) 207 993 4081 or simply [send an email](#) for a fast response.