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LANDFALL GUIDE · VISAS & ARRIVING

What should I do in my first few weeks in the UK?

THE SHORT ANSWER

Set up your eVisa account access, get a UK phone number, open a bank account, register with a doctor, apply for a National Insurance number, and sort council tax and utilities for your home. Do them roughly in that order, because each one makes the next easier.

For US citizens and green card holders moving to the UK. Build your free, personal move plan at **yourlandfall.com/plan**.

Week one

1. **Check your eVisa.** The UK now uses **eVisas** (digital immigration status) instead of physical cards. Make sure you can sign in to your UKVI account, and that your passport details are up to date. You'll use it to prove your **right to work** and **right to rent** with a share code.
2. **Get a UK SIM.** A UK phone number makes everything else easier. SIM-only plans need no credit check. See phones, internet and the TV licence.
3. **Keep your US number** active for US banks' security codes, even on a cheap plan.

Weeks one to two

4. **Open a bank account.** See opening a UK bank account.
5. **Register with a GP** (family doctor) near your home. See how healthcare works.
6. **Apply for a National Insurance number** if you don't have one. It's the UK's version of a Social Security number. You can usually start work before it arrives.

Once you have a home

7. **Register for council tax** with your local council. It's a local property tax paid by whoever lives there, and some households get a discount, such as living alone.
8. **Set up utilities**: energy, water and broadband. Broadband installation can take a couple of weeks, so book early.
9. **Get a TV licence** if you'll watch live TV or BBC iPlayer.
10. **Join the electoral register** if you're eligible. It helps your credit file. See building UK credit.

Also in the first month or two

- **School places**, if you have children. See UK schools for American families.
- **Driving**: plan your UK license. See driving on a US license.
- **Tell the IRS and your US providers** your new address.
- **Keep records** of your arrival date. It matters for UK tax. See when UK tax starts.

What to do next

Build your move plan and tick these off as you go. Your plan keeps them in the right order.

See every step for your move. Answer five questions and get a free plan in the right order: yourlandfall.com/plan