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LANDFALL GUIDE · MONEY, INVESTMENTS & RETIREMENT

How do I open a UK bank account as an American?

THE SHORT ANSWER

It's easiest once you have a UK address and your visa documents. Many people use a multi-currency account to bridge the gap, then open a UK account after they land. Your US credit history won't follow you, so start a UK one early.

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

General information, not personal tax, financial, legal or immigration advice.

The chicken-and-egg problem

UK banks usually want **proof of a UK address** and your **ID and visa**. Landlords often want a UK bank account. That's why the first weeks can feel stuck.

What helps:

- **A multi-currency account** you can open before you leave, to hold pounds and pay a deposit.
- **Banks with new-arrival accounts.** Some UK banks open basic accounts with your visa and a letter from your employer or university.
- **Your employer.** Some have arrangements with a bank for new staff.

Being a US person

Because of US reporting rules (FATCA), UK banks report accounts held by US citizens. Most current accounts (the UK name for checking accounts) are fine. **UK investment platforms are pickier**, and some don't accept US citizens at all. That's another reason to plan investments before you move.

Keep your US accounts working

Tell your US bank and brokerage you're moving abroad. Some restrict or close accounts for overseas customers, and it's much easier to sort out before you leave.

Building a UK credit file

Your US credit score doesn't transfer, so start a UK credit history early. See how to build a UK credit history.

What to do next

Build your move plan to see banking in the right order with housing and everything else.

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