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LANDFALL GUIDE · EVERYDAY LIFE

Phones, internet and the TV licence

THE SHORT ANSWER

An unlocked US phone will usually work with a UK SIM. Get a UK number in your first days, but keep your US number for bank security codes. Book broadband early, because installation can take a couple of weeks. You need a TV licence to watch live TV or use BBC iPlayer, but not for on-demand streaming services alone.

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

Your phone

- **Check it's unlocked.** Ask your US carrier to unlock it before you leave.
- **SIM-only plans** are the easy start: monthly or pay-as-you-go, often with no credit check. Many support **eSIM**.
- UK numbers start with **07** for mobiles.

Keep your US number

US banks, brokerages and the IRS often send **security codes by text** to a US number. Before you move, either:

- keep a **low-cost US plan** that works abroad, or
- move your number to a **US internet calling service** that can receive texts, and check your bank accepts it.

Losing access to your US number is one of the most common headaches for new arrivals.

Home broadband

- **Check what's available** at the address before you sign a lease. Full-fibre speeds vary a lot by street.
- **Book early**: installation can take one to two weeks, longer if an engineer visit is needed.
- Contracts are often **12–24 months**, sometimes with set price rises during the contract, so read the terms.
- A mobile hotspot bridges the gap until it's installed.

The TV licence

You need a **TV licence** if you:

- watch or record programs **as they're broadcast live**, on any channel or device, or
- use **BBC iPlayer**.

You **don't** need one if you only watch on-demand streaming services such as Netflix and never watch live TV or iPlayer. Watching without a licence when you need one can lead to a fine.

US streaming services

Some US streaming services and apps work differently or not at all from the UK, because of licensing. UK versions of the big services have different catalogs.

What to do next

See your first few weeks in the UK for the full checklist.

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